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scuz

Issue 9
www.scuz.info

Mountainboarding Zine
a free publication

Tantrum/ATBA-UK Series Rounds 3, 4 & 5

The Italian Job

The Adventura World Downhill Championships, Cortina

Surfing Summer Season

how to spend your summer off the dirt and in the sea

Court Farm Flipped 24 Challenge

OFFICIALLY THE UK'S FAVOURITE FREE MOUNTAINBOARDING ZINE

ISSUE 9



EDITORIAL :

Alrighty!

Here we go again, more Scuz M.Z. goodness for ya.

We have more new look goodness, courtesy of our evil German friend Eric 'the fuhrer' Dockhorn, Old Welly's back on the scene and it's so good to have him back. Chris, as ever, sorting sh*t out and doing his thing. We've all been scribbling quite a lot but I'll take the credit for all spelling mistakes, grammar errors, typos and general Scuz slovenlyness! Paul "Bet he's glad he's not on the proper Exit team after what happened this summer" Butler has been racing and writing lots, and appearing in a national broadsheet newspaper, pulling 'THE' method. Thanks to the Sunday Times newspaper for featuring our photo.

Due to Dr. Brodie's hard work and operational thinking, we have more adverts and although we don't want to fill up too much with ads, it means that we are getting more of this free goodness out to everyone and that's what we want. After all, someone's got to pay for it!

We have some excellent and useful information from Gary Holcombe and Team MEBA, we have stories from the last three rounds of the UK season, stories about woodland mentalness, doing a summer season; all sorts! Also welcome the return of the mighty Scuz competition. We expect no entries, just like before... although we like surprises.

After using too many political articles taken from a somewhat stateside perspective, we are going to start running some articles from British political thinkers. After all this is where we are, and looking from the perspective of thinkers who live here is probably vital. Blair lost the 90 days detention vote in the Commons, a very good thing for civil rights if there ever was one; and no doubt he'll soon be out of government, which is a cause-celebre if ever there was one. Why not celebrate with some gnarly downhill, or tweaked freestyle perfection, or a pint?

Don't forget to get your sh*t together for the Team BAD Xmas party on the 10th December; the venue for it is excellent this year and the best and worst of the UK scene will be letting it all hang out. The winter series, Downhill Days will have started by the time you read this- we'll have reports from that in issue 10. Hope to see you all soon at Eastnor for the first event, and if not have a dirty Christmas, and a filthy New Year. Back with new styles next year.

Love and Dirt

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SCUZ NEWS - SCUZ NEWS



ATBA-UK NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES 2006

The dates for the **ATBA-UK National Championship Series 2006** are already confirmed. The committee are currently talking to the mountainboard centres up and down the country in an attempt to get the best event series possible ready for 2006. The dates for next year are:

May 27th/28th
July 1st/2nd
July 22nd/23rd
August 12th/13th
September 2nd/3rd

We've got big things planned, and those plans are already underway. We hope to see you all racing in 2006!

DAN HOPKINS

HAS HIS 18 AT BUGS

On Saturday the 1st of October, Dan Hopkins turned 18. We wouldn't normally care, except that Dan had decided to have a bit of a do at Bugs boarding. Scuz weren't directly invited, but I went along anyway, as that's the sort of thing it was.

It finished with a great big fire, and buffet, with champagne and free west country cider, and even a fireworks display, artfully put together by Ollie. The only reason this is even getting a mention is because I have managed to afford a camera, and so was able to witness some of the UK's better riders, celebrating Mr Hopkins maturity by having top notch freestyle fun. Renny Myles was going bloody huge.

Mr Hopkins decided not to bother relaxing on his birthday and was having rails and chucking big airs about, Guy Crawford was rocking, Joe Dixon was there, as was Nikki Forecast, Rhys Crilley was showing big palmed airs to us, although for me Tom Rees was by far the biggest on the day.

It was one of those days, where there are loads of familiar faces, the weather stays nice, and it just goes on into the night. Scuz are all about those days. Cheers to Bugs and AJ for a great free days riding, to all that were there, particularly the Crilleys and Renny who travelled further than most, and particularly Bieren for driving the riders up the hill most of the day.



DOWNHILL DAYS WITH THE O.T.G. TEAM

The Out to Grass Team have decided that there isn't enough competing in our yearly season, and have decided some winter events would be a good idea. It will certainly make a change from being too hot!

With the first one having already taken place, at Eastnor Castle in November (write up in the next issue of Scuz), the next leg is February at Montgomery in Wales, it is believed but keep checking the ATBSports.co.uk forums for updates as weather can have debilitating effects, and as can mating wildlife which meant the postponement of the first leg at Eastnor Castle deer park. Check out www.outtograss.com/eastnor.html for full details and info.

The Eastnor leg consisted of three advanced runs, two beginners' runs, and a mass descent. The mass descent at Eastnor is the most amazing thing you will ever see/participate in.



MUNRO BOARDS & SCUZ NOW IN NZ

Some riders down under are wanting our fanzine, so we're sending 'em some, and in case some of us lot might fancy giving their boards a go, Tom Steetley is going to become Munro UK shortly, keep your eyes peeled, and you're wheels to the ground...

LUNCH
DOWN
UNDER



SCU2 NEWS - SCU2 NEWS

BUGS BOARDING

The main new addition for the coming New Year is going to be the foam pit. Set up less like a pit and more of like a circus net, the rider will shoot off a moveable wooden kicker, and towards a cargo net type affair tilted to face the direction the rider will be coming in, who will then hopefully roll down and plop off the bottom. Think human cannonball net! So you automatically roll down and plop off rather than climb out. Maximum refreshment - minimum effort!

It is planned for there to be some new features at the centre for beginner riders, to open up the centre to more varying degrees of skill, and there is more work going to be done to the bottom of the main boardercross course. The new foam pit may even be open before the end of the year, according to AJ and Bugs. Bugsboarding is now closed until March/April 2006. Between now and re-opening, there will be selected board owners only riding days. To get details of these weekends and any other upcoming events send your email address and contact details to bugsboarding@fsmail.net and you will be one of the first to find out. There should be extra stuff to ride by the time the first session is on! Hope to see you all there.

BEYOU BOARDS

Mr Paddock has been mostly surfing this years swell, but has also started taking the Beyou board riding to the next level. At one Demo where Tim was sharing a midi ramp with none other than the Globe skate team, they came over and were well impressed. Well done Tim.

The level of riding Tim Paddock, and now Tim Jones as well, are at is starting to push the Be Unlimited riding to the limits. Tim's enthusiasm for his product is growing all the time by the sounds of it, and so Scuz will be visiting Tim and the Beyou riders in the coming months to have a look at what goes on, so look out for that. In the meantime, have a look at <http://tinyurl.com/7zbfz>, for some videos of both Freeride and skatepark action. Tim is also working with Stu Kirk and putting a board out with light 8" wheels. In his spare time, Tim is putting the final touches on the rules of a game that was initially tested at OTG on Ian Johnson's birthday, called extreme cricket. It is similar to normal cricket, except the fielders are encouraged to attempt to stop the batsmen making runs, by any means necessary. It will be coming to a competition near you, keep your eyes peeled!

SCRUB NEW STUFF

All current boards have been renamed and improved in many ways. But we're more interested in the **new pro-series boards** about to be released for Xmas.

The two decks have been individually designed and have a unique lay-up of composites over wood and foam which keeps the weight to a minimum and the strength high. The deck width is a little wider than other similar decks, but is still very light. There are two being released, a 90cm freestyle affair, and the longer 102cm deck aimed at hardcore freeriding, so the literature states. On the shorter board attention has been made to weight reduction, and at 5.8kg I think they have succeeded! The freeride board has suitable improvements for the discipline, and although the boards aren't as cheap as Scrub usually manage, at 225 and 290 respectively, they aren't badly priced. Scrub have a habit of selling below the market value, so it's likely these boards will be very competitive.



Scrub Pro Wrist Guard srp £29.99



Scrub Full Face Helmet srp £55

The guys are also releasing improved pigskin and leather wrist guards, a well priced full face, bargain body armour and ass pads, some of which have been tested. By us. Good eh?

LUSH LONGBOARDS

The **Cutback** is new to the Lush range, and it's a cheap and very cheerful number, with features above and beyond its price! It features wheel wells for a lower ride, Holey trucks for a tight, surfy turn, and Kryptonics wheels that grip hard and roll smooth. Going for 124 traditional English nuggets all in, or 60 quid for the deck. Check www.lushlongboards.com

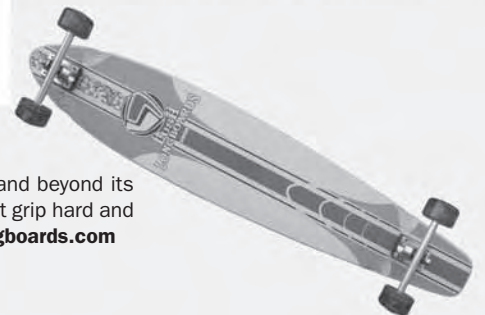


SCU2 NEWS - SCU2 NEWS



MBS STAINLESS PARTS

MBS have brought out a new stainless steel accessories range for their boards - all parts are stainless steel and should keep out that old dreaded thing called rust out of the bearings and screws. These new parts are designed especially for the seaside environment, so if you use your board on the beach more than you do in the lovely mud and rain; it may be worth looking into. For more information on this check out www.mbs.com



SCU2 NEWS - SCU2 NEWS

GROUND INDUSTRIES\KHEO

Have a new stick to the quiver, the Flight lite, it's a lighter, more advanced board with new features such as new reinforced Bionic Super Trucks, Carbon/Glass/Wood Hybrid deck, Balistik tyres, Crossair Hubs, and it weighs in at a mere 6kg. RRP £295 or so. There are also the new "Bazookaz Street slicks" tyres; racing rubber for your high speed tarmac pleasure. They are compatible with all trucks that take the cross air hubs, so to change your GI into a street banshee, lose the bindings and fling some of these on.

Also distributed by Wind design are Kheo Boards, of which there are two newbies on the market, tested by the Kheo team and to replace the now inferior existing boards. There is the new "Ergo Click Foot Straps" binding system, and all new fittings are stainless, for kite use in saline conditions. The decks are poppier, and there are new tyres with improved sideways grip to stop sliding out so much. Finally from Kheo is the "Mobile Mechanic Maintenance Pack". It's a tool kit/hardware pack packaged in a smart looking handy black case which opens up into three segments containing the following;

Full Set of 12mm Bearings and Stainless Steel Bolts, Spare Inner Tube, Telescopic Pump With Pressure Gauge, 150mm Heavy Duty Adjustable spanner and Allen Key Set, Cleaning Brush.

The Kheo "Maintenance Pack" is available NOW priced at £29.99. Contact your local boarding shop or Distributors **Wind Design Ltd** for more information or email: info@wind-designs.com/phone **0870 870 6065**



TEAM B.A.D. X-MAS PARTY

Team BAD celebrate the festive season properly, by getting drunk and lairy in a skatepark, then riding it off the next day with a bit of downhill. Come on then!

Team BAD Xmas Party at Motion skatepark in Brizzle Sat 10th - Sun 11th December. "On Saturday we will be meeting up at Ashton Court for some longboarding, freeboarding and any other type of board you can think of (not allowed on the grass though - boo). In the evening about 7 p.m. 'til late, we have rented the only indoor skate park in Bristol (Motion, formally skate and ride) for fun and games and also the Team BAD raffle: total mayhem every year. We also hope to have a DJ in the park with us this year if all goes well. And the bar will be open. Mmmm beer. Sunday - mountain boardin' at our best secret spot."

Need a place to crash? Email vacantboy@yahoo.com and you can sleep in my garden.



HILL 62

Chilly62 (II): Doesn't seem anything since our session at Ivinghoe last Christmas. Memories of concrete-hard ground, a log-fire, sloppy racing and long-jump still bring back a smile. So we decided to run the session again. Tuesday 27th December 2005. Shake off the Christmas cobwebs. Here's what you need to know.

- Event takes place at Town Farm, Ivinghoe. If you've not been before, it can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/c5put>
- As it gets dark so early, we'll try and start earlyish. So sign-on from 10.30 and we'll try and get riding from about 11.30am.
- This is meant to be a 'fun' event - if the ground's really hard, we may scrap any freestyle.
- Maybe we'll have a timed team DH competition (ie. 3 riders go in relay)
- what does anyone think? Just e-mail back to info@hill62.com as think this could work well in the winter climes.
- There will be a beginner's comp. too - for those who maybe haven't dropped in on the start ramp before. We will have a few hire 'n' ride boards, but won't be running total beginner's lessons on the day (without prior appointment).
- Emphasis of the day is a chilled excuse to escape the rellies/TV, etc.

For any more info or to let us know you're coming along, just e-mail Rob at info@hill62.com so we have a vague idea of numbers.

Autumn/Winter Freeride Sale: Continues. We are having an end-of-season sale on hill62 gear to make way for new season's stock. The hoodies are as warm/heavy duty as it gets and the T's the perfect layering for Winter freeriding! Order now for yourself or for a Christmas present as we are shifting stock out daily and some sizes in some designs are now sold out! Just get yourself to <http://tinyurl.com/8onpl> today and pick up a true bargain!

Board Specials: New Scrub boards are in very soon. We will be stocking entry and mid-range models which are perfect for beginners or newer riders on a budget. Keep an eye on the web-site if you're interested. Delivery for boards over £100 is f.o.c and we can personally deliver locally. We continue to stock the full MBS range and spares/widgets, etc. We also have a number of ex-display and ex-demo boards for sale. Easiest is e-mail me at info@hill62.com for more details as this stock does tend to change quickly.

Stocking Fillers: hill62 Zippos, hill62 Trucker Caps, Scrub or MBS Board Bags and so on. Or what about a hill62 Winter Freeride Session? Check them out at www.hill62.com. Don't forget to put an alternative mailing address on your order if you don't want a package to come to the same address as home.

Winter Freeriding: We continue to offer 'Winter Freeride Sessions' with instruction and equipment hire as necessary for up to 4 riders. Just e-mail info@hill62.com if you want to fix something up.

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661 PRO DJ KNEE PADS

I have thankfully been riding with these knee pads since Round 3 (Scotland) this year, and haven't managed to give myself any major knee injuries since. My previous kneepads were beginning to be-

come ever so slightly annoying, with them refusing to stay on without numerous layers of tape holding them in place!

My first impression was that these look the business. Now, after a couple of months riding with them I don't know how my knees existed without them. The padding is thick and effective, shaped to fit snug on the knees which it does well giving maximum protection against big slams (which has really come in useful)! There is also a thin breathable layer of sponge padding over the top of the main stuff, presumably to make the fit more comfortable and soak up sweat. The plastic cup is solid and has taken a lot of abuse with no signs of cracking or weakening in any way, and the six rivets that hold it in place still do their job like they were new.

Now I always have and probably always will have a problem with getting pads to stay where the hell I put them, but these have been the best so far at keeping their place. There are four straps - two large stretchy neoprene ones with velcro pads sewn on located just above and below the knee, and then two elastic ones again with velcro which go over the top of these. The great thing about this strap setup is that you can put the pads on comfortably with the neoprene straps and then use the elastic ones to tighten the fit and hold them securely in place. Whenever I've slammed straight on they have stayed fine, sideways on sometimes I've had movement, but not enough to expose any flesh.

There are drawbacks however, mainly the age-old Padding vs. Heat & Movement battle. The amount of movement is fine, but on a hot day these do get a tad uncomfortable to wear. Also I have managed to progressively shred the thin outer sponge type padding on the inside of the pads after many bails, but this is purely cosmetic damage. Overall I am very impressed with these pads, they retail at £34.99!

Reviewed by JC

IN THE NEXT ISSUE CHECK OUT
THE BODY ARMOR
COMPARISON TEST



661 CARBON PRO LID

I took the Helmet out of its box, and immediately noticed the lack of weight, which is good for a helmet because when riding, you don't want to feel like you're balancing a large basket of mixed

fruits up top. With the 661 Carbon Pro, there's no danger of that happening.

I put it on and it was too big and started to worry whether Paulie has ordered the wrong size when on his blagging missions. I was about to call, and then checked the box again just in case; and weh hey! Foam inserts to suite every noggin! Being a brainless pinhead I required the fattest padding. I want to report the helmet is very good, and having newly arrived into the mad Bristol freeride scene (and not liking full face helmets), I have had the opportunity to test the helmet quite thoroughly on quite a number of different occasions. I'm pleased to say that I am still just as braindamaged and mal-adjusted as before. While the helmet has offered no improvement in my debilitating conditions (why would it after all?), after a good few thumps to the business end, I am still gaily meandering through life like some grotesque decapitated giraffe.

I give my personal thanks to 661 for letting me test the helmet. It's a shame it didn't protect the rest of me or my reputation, as I have, as a result of my repeatedly and viciously testing the above mentioned piece of kit, been offered to ride in a team all on its own, with only one member. Meet me, Team Sh*te.

Reviewed by Andy W



BEST FOOT FORWARD DUO

I don't have a copy of this myself, but I think I'll be getting one. I know how hard it is

to get ATB footage looking right. It's hard. This DVD is probably the best UK video outing since Us and friends. Not that there's been many, but the few there has been, weren't the best; ours might have been the worst!

It has a very cool soundtrack, some quality racing footage, some good freestyle and free-ride footage, but most of all, it makes you want to go out and ride. Well worth 8 measly British nuggets. Get it for a Christmas present. Repeatedly rewind and watch Gary Bowman knocking himself. Then get pissed and go to bed. Oh yeah.

Reviewed by Andy W

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REVIEWS -- MOVIES -- MUSIC

SNOWBLOOD -
BEING AND BECOMING

I got a call from one of my northern crew Dicko to let me know that Snowblood were playing in Bristol, promoting this album, shortly after I arrived in Bristol. Glad I made the show, it was good to see the guys again, but it was particularly good to see where they have taken the music since the last album was reviewed in an earlier version of this very fanzine. The style of music hasn't altered dramatically since the last album, slow dirgy and moody slabs of rock, the 8 track album weighing in at 62 minutes; this isn't high speed punk, but instead very ambient, darkly and emotionally atmospheric, grungy and even occasionally psychedelic mood music, but with some full on rocking interludes. More electronic wizardry has gone into this release, and it was good to see use of said equipment in the live show. The lyrics have also improved vastly 'You're surrounded by these artefacts; This useless collection of consumer consolation prizes' 'Peaceless hibernation in the city of Glasgow, peaceless hibernation in the city of lost adults'.

This new album is better than the last one, and it is a monster. From the production of the black and white photographs looking over a sunny Glaswegian cityscape to the way the music is recorded itself Snowblood should be very happy with the album. I certainly am!

I think it costs about a tenner.

Best way to get hold of this will be through:
punk distro's

www.superfirerecords.co.uk

www.lawgiverrecords.co.uk

Reviewed by Andy W.

GORILLAZ -
DEMON DAYS

I liked the first one a lot, and saw the video for one of the tracks and immediately went out and bought the new album. At first listen the new one appeared poppier, except that its not. For a cartoon band, the new Gorillaz is a very mature album from the crew. Tracks like last living soul, kids with guns and O green world are very Gorillaz, taking that mix of vibey old school style, with new school digital noise, and throwing in the guest hip hop spots that made the last album so stand out. Damon Albarn shows how well he has progressed musically and vocally since blur, Dan the Automator showing his consistency in the inventive beats and style department.

Taking account of post modern life, with its wars for oil, its damaged planet and people, both the album and its art reflect work by artists who are aware of a dire situation, but more or less powerless to change anything, much like Bob Geldoff's recent 'make poverty history' campaign. Still if the fact that our own undertakings now threaten our civilization means that we get more music of the calibre of this Gorillaz album, and less music churned out by the likes of Simon 'I will single handedly destroy everything you like about music' Cowell, then its not the end of the world right?!

Available from any corporate music store you care to grace with your presence.

Reviewed by Andy W.

V13 -
PUDIQUE

While out in France, I discovered metal was in very short supply. For three months, I searched the entire south coast of France for metal, but yet none was to be found. "Je recherche le métal!", I announced on many occasion, only being pointed to the nearest scrap yard. Metal alright, but not the kind of metal I was looking for.

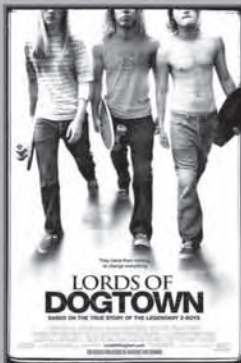
No, I was looking for the kind metal that punishes the ear drums and the lungs, that fires off a rage inside and that, frankly, would ease the pain that the continual commercial hip hop and R & B played on every radio station and played in every pub, club or bar in the south of France, was afflicting on me.

And I found it. V13, a Nice based metal/hardcore band, was supporting Dagoba, another French metal band, at a gig one night in Cannes. V13 had obvious hardcore roots, and so I took to them more than the main act. I've since seen them on a number of occasions and every time they have blown me away. The energy of the two vocalists, working together in almost perfect unison, is quite something to see.

Pudique, French for "modest", is their latest six track EP and unusually all sung in French, as it seems many French bands tend to write and sing their songs in English. If you've ever heard and enjoyed anything by Sikth, a British metal band also with two vocalists, then you will love V13, despite the French lyrics (which I find quite appealing, to be honest). The songs themselves vary from straight-out hardcore of "Leatherface" to the slightly more metal influenced "Linéaire". Info about V13 on their website at www.v13.org, where you can order Pudique online for measly €10.

Reviewed by Welly

REVIEWS -- MOVIES -- MUSIC



LORDS OF DOGTOWN

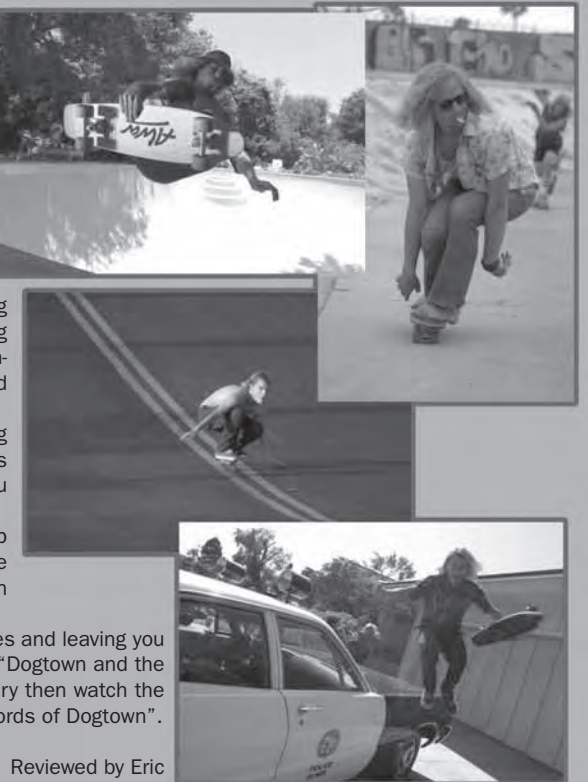
The film takes us back to the 1970s in Venice, California (a.k.a "Dogtown"), where a bunch of beach bums turn from surfing at the rundown Pacific Ocean Pier to competition skateboarding for Zephyrs surf shop.

Those who have seen the documentary Dogtown and the Z-Boys will be familiar with all the characters in this movie, such as Jay Adams (Emile Hirsch), Tony Alva (Victor Rasuk) and Stacy Peralta (John Robinson). The film's focus lies mainly on these three; it tries to retell the story that these boys went through to get to where they are today and claims that these guys are responsible for the re-birth and re-invention of skateboarding. Taking skating to new heights, away from the mainly flatland style boarding - introducing vert into the sport, by practicing in their new found training grounds - drained pools. With their new found style the beach bums are quickly transformed into overnight superstars.

The makers of this movie nail the feel of the 70's; the scenes, the haircuts, the boards, the riding styles are all spot on. Some of the skating scenes are pretty sweet, with wicked camera angles and nice flowing moves. It would have been nice to see more skating, as the story line leaves you rather confused and unsatisfied, you just never feel like you are getting the whole picture.

You don't really get to know the characters and what is driving them. The sub-plots suddenly stop and are more or less dropped from the story without any explanation, actions are taken, and the consequences are never to be seen. The team splits, after that you never see anyone other than Jay, Tony and Stacy. (What happened to the rest?)

The overall verdict is some nice skating, but not enough of it. A poor show for following plot lines and leaving you void of any feeling for the characters and what they were really like. The precursor to this film "Dogtown and the Z-boys" had more skating and more soul. If you want to watch a good skating film/documentary then watch the original; bored out of your mind, nothing on TV, no books to read, then maybe take a look at "Lords of Dogtown".



Reviewed by Eric



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The Greatest Threat to Mankind

By Anon

Whilst some people see global warming, terrorism, or even George Bush to be the greatest threat to mankind, I am here today to tell of yet another thing you people should be worrying about. This threat ladies and gentleman, I kid you not... the flying snake.

Now when I first wrote the words "flying snake" on my mountainboard (yes there had to be a link somewhere) I received a varied response. "Do those actually exist?" was the most common response I received whilst on the out to grass lift, though possibly the slightly more worrying comment was "Oh yeah I saw one of those the other day".

Let me get one thing straight, flying snakes do not exist, they are merely the source of my very disturbing nightmare. (a nightmare brought on I feel after watching Ricky Gervais, the Animals DVD). However just because they do not exist to the present day, doesn't mean we should ignore the threat of the flying snake, when you consider that ants taught themselves to fly, surely the far more intelligent snake could in the near future make like a bird and fly. Evolution my friend, although it has done some good like meaning we are more than just jelly fish (don't get me started on jelly fish), it could be the death of us.

And it's not like the snake has had such an innocent history. In fact the snake is a well known enemy of man, remember it was the snake who f**kd the whole garden of Eden thing up. If it wasn't for the snake us mountain-boarders could be living in a world today where the pain of being a woman doesn't exist. Lets just take a minute to imagine that... oh sweet bliss.

Not so fond of that slithery thing now are you?! And when you consider that the snake caused all that damage without wings, who knows what it could do if it did develop wings, the end of mankind. Anyway some good news. Normally when people say that the world is doomed, it's just "Ha ha you're screwed", no solution as to how we can save ourselves and the world from damnation.

However I've provided you with an alternative. You see when I had this nightmare, I dreamt I was in my bed as per usual, it was dark and it was blowing a whoolie (a storm) outside, and all of a sudden this snake with wings flew up onto my window, and started slithering through (it managed to open the window itself, you see as they grow wings they will also grow in intelligence). Now I'm thinking that this is the only way that snakes will be able to come into our houses, and if they couldn't stick to the windows and slid off they'd be so shocked by this that they wouldn't be able to operate their wings in time, so would hit the ground and die. Perfect. So how do you get the snakes to slide off your window? The answer is simple, Vaseline. One by one they will all slide and will all die, and then the world will be saved once more. So there you have it friends, flying snakes.

RESPONSE:

Well, not sure what to say. Anon has not come across as overly paranoid the few times I have met her, so I guess let this serve as a warning. While snakes remain as they are, slithering around on the floor, usually somewhere warm we'll probably be ok most of the time. However in case they do quickly evolve into flying hell demons, get a bit Vaseline on your bedroom windows. Sorted.

Cheers Anon.

Ramblers & ATB

By Ben Hall

In a way ATB is a form of rambling, we see far more of the countryside than many people, even if it is flying past our heels at ridiculous speeds. And we appreciate it as much as (if not more than) old people in silly hats wandering around getting lost on purpose. Even the terms 'rambling' and 'freeriding' are similar; both give out similar impressions; escape from the 'daily grind'! Why is it then that we are constantly hearing of innocent boarders getting into situations involving ramblers, which potentially put people's local riding spots at risk? Why is there such a clash between us and them, when essentially the only difference between what we're doing and what they are doing is wheels (and around 20 mph)?!

This is not an attempt by me to demonize innocent members of the pedestrian public by placing anyone not riding in the anti boarder category, some interaction with the public is vital to the sport. It is probably true for almost all boarders to say that they enjoy explaining to shocked bystanders how we do stop our 'big skate boards' once they've decided they can't see a brake. Most members of the public like to stand and watch or maybe cheer when you hit the ground, it is the select few who seem to want to spoil everyone else's fun, but it is these few who have the ear of the National Trust and who are we to go against the power of The Trust? How many reasons have we all heard from various ramblers and wardens as to why we shouldn't ride certain precious bits of land? There are too many to count and there is always a reason why we shouldn't be there, I was once thrown out of a spot when I first started riding for the heinous crime of 'disturbing the grass'! It poses the question, why are we trying so hard to preserve places of significance if we can't enjoy them now?

It would be terrible for the sport if we were forced to retreat entirely to centres and private riding spots. Getting out and into the country is a key reason why I love the sport so much. My entire argument is already a cliché that you've all heard before, but I believe that we have to work with the ramblers and the wardens (and yes the evil National Trust) towards making mountain boarding a sport for everybody. Basically this article is just a reminder to everyone out there to smile a bit more, be more polite. Even if they are talking absolute bullsh*t, at least pretend you are listening! Then when they leave you can completely forget everything they just said and everything you agreed not to do and keep riding.

RESPONSE:

Cheers for the email Ben, we couldn't agree more with your sentiments, while my experience of the 'pedestrian public' is usually good (at Mam Tor recently for example we had quite a few spectators), only a few issues ago we heard how some of the team North boys got a bit more than they bargained for in Coxley Woods near Wakefield. Things are on the up however. Have a read of the Little Bastard article, and see if you can't make some use of the code of conduct Gary Holcombe has put together with the Forestry Commission. Our advice is just to try and be as pro-active as you can in dealing with 'the authorities', if you ride with a crew, try getting one of the older members to approach 'The Trust' citing the kind of responsible riding the Holcombe code of conduct puts forth, you may fare a little better. Never give up - Never give in. Good luck and keep us posted man!



SCU2 RANDOMNESS

ARE YOU DRESSED FOR THE OCCASION?



Mountainboarders don't frequently get a bad press (not here at least), but if there is one criticism that is consistently levelled at mountainboarders and mountainboarding, it's that we're not cool, or have no style, especially when we're dressed up nice and ready to ride.

Coming from a skateboarding background (but also as someone who looks homeless a good amount of the time) I'll tell you this for nothing, I rarely go to the pub without first changing out of what was worn to ride in. The pub I used to drink in up north, was such a dirty hovel, wearing riding gear would in all honesty have been perfectly acceptable to many of the boozers other patrons. So here's the thing. How is it possible to represent, while still looking good, and not smelling too bad.

Eric 'the fuhrer' Dockhorn believes he has found the answer. Being German it's obvious to me that he hasn't. Not to discourage the lad however, we advised him to give us his ideas on what is appropriate attire for the pub after a good days riding.

... what is appropriate attire for the pub after a good days riding.

We asked him to emphasise clobber which is lightweight, will dry easily, is warm, but most of all, makes girls want to come over and buy you a pint.

The attire is also eminently suitable for longboarding according to Eric, who has picked up many a hairy armpitted women while carving up the streets of Dusseldorf. Check out the pics for some **real** fashion advice!



...I THINK NOT!

Words by Andy W.



THE WORLDS MOST USELESS PRODUCT

Eric is a warped sort of chap, and endlessly trawls the internet in search of the inane. It was he who found this utterly preposterous idea, and we have to show you this, because it is a jem!

Just like the Darwin awards give praise to those moronic individuals who remove their chances of polluting the gene pool, Eric's idea for a most useless product article pokes fun at those idiots with much more money than sense, and the idiots who pander to their needs. Unsurprisingly they are frequently (but not always) from across the pond.

Allow Eric to present you with the fifth avenue Kitty Stroller.
Oh yes.

This is a cage, in which to place your pet should you want to take it for a walk, but are concerned that... maybe it can't be arsed... maybe it well get into difficulties... who the f*ck knows what anyone might think before buying one of these stupid things, for the equivalent of 150 quid!

Some of the marketing material is pure genius, especially of the SUV model (yes, there is more than one model, and this one is the SUV! SUV is pic on the left)

"The Fifth Ave Pet Stroller SUV version is 30% bigger, with larger, high traction tires, and more carrier head room. Stairs, curbs, popular trails are all easily handled by this versatile stroller."

Don't you just love it? Larger high traction tyres? I would love to see if you could fit the owner of one of these things into it, and then send it all the way down one of those "popular trails".

After all, if you have a cat or dog, the first thing to enter your head while taking it out for a walk, is whether or not it can manage curbs, or 'popular trails'.

It also boasts a 'faux fur cozy', maybe in case your pet you get a bit anxious if you used the real thing?! And a customizable name plate for your pet. I / we just can not believe it.

We hope this business goes bust very soon. Either that or the human race deserves to die. All of us.
For more info on this brilliant contraption check out: www.metropawlispetboutique.com

AMAZING IT FOLDS TOO...



Words by Andy W.

...PURE GENIUS

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RIDING READERS



WHO ARE THEY ?

1. JACK
2. BEATI
3. MATTHEW SIMPSON
4. JAMES COOK
5. BEN
6. MATTHEW

WHO ARE THEY ?

the gnarly drop-offs for the more loco.

For possibly the first time in Scuz history, and possibly mountainboarding history, I'm ashamed to admit, we arrived not only first, but early. Still, gave us time for some breakfast, which in this case turned out to be the biggest sausage and bacon butty I've ever laid eyes on. Andy W's (from here onwards known as "Brad from Neighbours") head has seemingly increased in volume since his time in the UK's surf capital, with a growth of straggly peroxide blonde locks; this butty was larger than that. But not quite as pretty, perhaps. And so suitably fuelled up, we headed up to the Tor for the start of the days activities.

As always, we started the day with doing a few runs down the top section, which is a kind of freeride area, around three to four hundreds metres long. Not overly taxing, but good fun all the same, with a few different lines to take. While it wasn't raining at that time, it was apparent that Mam Tor had experienced a few showers, which made for slippery runs. A good laugh all the same and conditions made for a few nice long drifts at the bottom of the run. And as always, the odd rambler passed by looking bewildered at the goings on and the words "skate" and "board" were definitely heard coming from the direction of the ramblers. At least the immortal phrase, "Did you make that yourself?" is becoming a rarity these days.

The ATBSports van finally rewarded us with their presence, just as we had plans to move on to the next section; but a few more runs were required to keep quiet Scuz's resident (or now not-so-resident since his departure to pastures Bristol) piss-and-moaner, Brad From Neighbours. With that done, it was time to take our guests to the next spot, which in this case happened to be the subsidised road. I've recently learnt an interesting fact, that this road was one that took visitors from Treak Cavern to the Blue John Cavern but due to the layered shale and gritstone nature of the terrain, the road subsidised around 1979 and as a result, was closed down. One for "The Rambler Magazine" perhaps.

All this meant that a fantastic drop-off spot is made available for mountainboarders, and drop-off our band of riders did. Steve Birkbeck, and Ant Wilson, dangerously took the lead on the way down towards the drop-off section, and before I could say, "mind the drop!" they hoyaed themselves off, uttering a few colourful words once realisation of said drop had set in. "That'll be the drop-off then", correctly announced Birkbeck. The drop off, if you've not experienced it or read about it previously, is a 6 or 7 foot affair, where a sodding great big chunk of road has simply fallen apart and left a scene reminiscent of a Hollywood earthquake movie, only with a lack of budget and a gun-toting Charlton Heston.

That place, back in 2004, was Mam Tor in the Peak District and here we are over two years later and with similar weather conditions (wet) back at the very same spot. Last time, it was Andy and myself, representing Team North and Scuz, with a whole host of MEBA; this time some of the Team BAD die-hards also came along to see what it was all about.

Mam Tor has always been one of my favourite spots, not only for the exceptionally fresh air and incredible scenery - and it IS quite something to see, but also for the fantastic riding to be had. To say there is something for everyone is an often used cliché, but is absolutely the case for Mam Tor. For the new rider, there's a good choice of mellow grassy runs to get yourself going, all the way up to

[illegible]

RETURN TO THE TOR

The usually reckless Ant Wilson made a few drops and then commented on his usually stiff Leon Robins Pro bottoming out. But a 6 or 7 foot drop to flat, as Ant quite correctly pointed out, will probably do that. And as Ant also quite correctly pointed out, that's probably why Brad From Neighbour's trucks keep on bending, as Brad From Neighbours is known for doing drop-to-flats of varying sizes and dimensions.

All the guys hit the drop, some more successfully than others, but a mention must go to Harris Corr, who stood shorter than the drop, but still took it on and rode out as smoothly as his seniors. A final mention should probably go to Brad from Neighbours for his backside 180 off the shorter end of the drop. He'd commented a few times over the afternoon how he had been given no recognition for doing the 180 while everyone had been back-patting each other for their efforts. So, well done, Brad from Neighbours, we were all very impressed. Honest.

Further on down the subsided road was another drop-off spot more suited to Ant, Steve and Stu's tastes. Standing at an easy fourteen or fifteen foot, but with a transition, no one hesitated to attack it. Being Mam Tor, it offered many ways of hitting the drop. Full advantage was taken and every line explored. We spent a good half hour to forty minutes here; noSno team rider, JC, and Stu Luggie putting on the most impressive show. The line was a short twenty to thirty metre run in with a little step up and then either off the remains of a brick chimney or just to the left of that, following the natural line to pop off the downward transition.

Stu showed some amazing flair with some incredibly stylish, and ballsy, drops. The same goes with JC. While many riders concentrate on the drop, and it was by no means a small one either, and riding it out; these guys take it one step further and put in a little tweak here or a grab there. Definitely something to aspire to.

The last section of Mam Tor is the road run, which is around a mile or so long. Starting with a steep-ish winding two or three hundred metres, and then mellowing down for the rest but on a continual downhill slope. Nothing technical, just a bit of fun before the hero volunteer drivers took us back to the top, allowing us to do it all over again.

The second run was more of the same, excepting Steve, Ant, Stu, Paul B and Brad from Neighbours discovering much of the top section could be linked in one nice long run. Starting at the very top of the road, or even before the gate that sections it off from the derelict part, with someone holding the gate upon, the run follows the road down to the drop off. Ride straight off this and keep going. In the next steep section there are two lines, head for the left hand line, up onto a raised section of tarmac, then up again onto a thin section of grass, along a ridge and into a fairly mighty drop, landing on the steep. This is as far as you can go on this section; a shame, but it's a longer run than before at the spot, hooking up sections that were previously a focal point in themselves.

And this they did repeatedly, having plenty of fun until, as is inevitable, someone poops the party. On this occasion, the pooper happened to be a small grey dog, who on seeing two mountainboarders in the shape of Steve Birkbeck and Stu rapidly appear over the horizon and towards it, found this somewhat unnerving and decided to make a run for the hills as fast as it's small grey legs could muster. Around twenty minutes later, once the dog was found, the business of riding was resumed and the animal loving/beard hating Birkbeck offered a sympathetic, "Well, it shouldn't have been there, should it?" True enough; it shouldn't have been there, indeed.

One last road run and as early evening was approaching, it was decided that we'd call it a day and finish things off in the pub before everyone went their separate ways. The Old Cheddar Cheese was the venue of choice, for a beer and a bit of swearing.

It was great catching up with everyone, having been out of the scene for so long, and seeing how everyone's riding has improved tenfold. Can't wait for the next session!

Words by the return of old Wellies.



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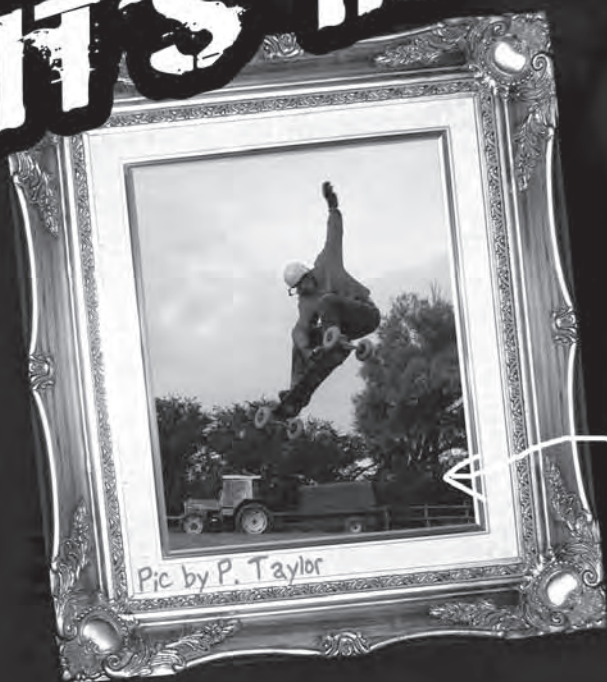
Some body you might have heard of! (Leon Robbins)

Chad Harding @
The Maxtrack Classic

Now we're racing!



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Now we're free-riding!

The weekend started well on the Friday as I left a rainy Stockport, the first stop of was only a short trip up the M6 to pick up my first passenger Andy Williams, followed by another short drive to Preston to pick up Skully (Mark Sullivan) who fortunately had more clothes on than in the team North advert. After a quick stop for money and some more food supplies we were off on the 3 some hour drive to Dunkeld, Perthshire, aided by a very nice compilation CD that Skully had slung together before he'd left the house. After an epic but fairly uneventful drive we arrived at the camping area which had formerly been a meadow by the looks of it, and were greeted by scorching temperatures and glorious sun shine. It was so hot most people were making the most of the nearby river to cool off in, including my passengers who disappeared leaving me to put the tent up on my own – there's gratitude for you!

The walk from the camp site to the bottom of the course had to be the only down side to the whole weekend. It felt like miles, but in reality was probably only one. Unfortunately the last part of it and the walk up the fire road to the top of the course was of course up hill (thank god there was the uplift truck on race day).

It was a course of two halves, there was the option to run the fire road all the way from the top to the bottom, a very nice run, not too fast and not too slow, very nice. Then there was the other option, the top half through the woods, hitting the fire road into the last right hander and down the last long straight before sweeping round the last long left and over the line after a short finishing straight.

Now the top section, the woods...oh my god!

THIS IS MOUNTAIN BOARDING.

Everyone has, and is entitled to their opinions; this is mine. The woods section of this course defines what mountain boarding is all about for me. It is the hardest thing I've ever had to ride, it





pushed

me and my mountain boarding to the limits and beyond, and I don't mind telling you it scared the crap out of me.

Shooting down a loose rocky track a metre or so wide skimming trees, dodging rocks and boulders, zig zagging down a crazy gradient, chipping speed off as often as possible, wherever possible just to stay in control. Even hardcore freeriders like Ant Wilson, Steve Birkbeck and Tim Jones were struggling to get every run clean. I can't even begin to do this section justice with an accurate description, but in rough terms here it goes as I remember it.

Off the small wooden one man roll-in, down the fire road for 20 meters or so before a massive speed check and a sharp left off the road down a short steep where you go to the right at the bottom, off a little dirt kicker or stay left and dodge a tree stump before you hit the very loose rocky dirt, and then start bearing right into the woods proper, there was then a sharp left as you headed down the very steep part of the section where you just zig zag down between trees, dodge boulders and basically fought to stay on the very narrow course. At the bottom of all this you could stay left and ride a tricky shimmy down and round an off camber drop affair or stay right and go off a wooden 'north shore' style 5ft drop. This pitched you into a very wide 90 degree left where you set yourself up to shoot down three very steep drop offs one after the other out of the woods on to a narrow wooden jetty like affair before dropping a foot off the end of that and back onto the fire track into the last right hander, down the last long straight before sweeping round the last long left and over the finish line after a short finishing straight.

Those running the fire road had their tyres pumped up pretty hard; those running the woods had very low pressures save a few brave souls like Leon Robbins, and the noSno team who were running 8 inch wheels with front disc brakes. Everyone was wondering whether or not going through the woods would be quicker than run-



ning the fire road all the way down, and we had to wait till the first runs were complete to find out.

The under 14's, Ladies and Masters each did their first of three runs and it quickly emerged that going through the woods was quicker. I'd love to tell you about the racing but there was none, this was just a rider, the course and a clock to race against. Natalie Reynolds took the win for the ladies, Zak Campbell in the under 14's and the masters was won by local boy Dave McBean on his noSno with 12" skyway wheels and disc brakes.

The under 18's and the open timed runs both saw a battle emerging for the fastest time. In the under 18's it was JC (noSno) and Joe Dickson (MBS) fighting it out, JC was victorious with his best time just less than two seconds faster than Joe, was it his 9" tyres on the run down the fire road that gave him the edge? Who knows?

In the Open it was another MBS vs noSno battle, this time Chris McCarthy (noSno) and Leon Robbins (MBS) fought it out down to the last run. With Chris having his last run before Leon, Leon found out what time he had to beat, pulled out all the stops and managed to beat

ROUND 3. SCOTLAND



Chris' time by just over a second. With this course being the most challenging seen in the ATBA series so far it proves that Leon is a true master of mountain boarding on any terrain.

Following the racing on Saturday evening as everyone was heading back to the camp site I was one of those lucky enough to scrounge a lift to the very top of the fire road in the team Bad mini bus. What followed was the most blissful peace of mountain boarding for the whole weekend, for me it was my highlight. From the very top. It just went on and on and on (a bit like the writer – Ed). I have no idea how long it took, I just remember that it took ages and it was beautiful, carving, straight lining, kicking the back end out here and there to kill speed if I felt like it, or for the pure pleasure of feeling like I was back on my snowboard. Having waited till most people had set off I was able to enjoy the run dust free in relative solitude (and without fear of crashing into anyone).

Saturday night went off with a bang, quite a few bangs in fact. At some point during the evening's festivities some bright spark decided that it would be a good idea to put a tin of beans on the bonfire. This heated up and exploded, obviously. What followed was a series of equally thunderous explosions as the party goes, some a little the worse for wear, searched through their food supplies for tinned food stuffs and anything else that would have the desired effect, to throw on the fire to fuel their need for more explosions. Apparently tinned haggis went up the best, how appropriate.

Sunday dawned as bright and sunny as the previous day, and people started making the trek from the camp site to the bottom of the downhill track to where the freestyle was to take place. The freestyle was to take place on one jump; it was an excellent wooden kicker and a wooden flat bank landing. The run in however left a lot to be desired, the roll-in was a sort of loose sand with rocks in before you hit a very narrow wooden track which lead up to the kicker, so after fighting to keep your balance, part rolling, part sliding through axle deep sand you hit the wooden part of the rollin and picked up speed rapidly up to the ramp. Not the greatest but we all made do. The under 14's, ladies and under 18's had their 4 jumps first then the open and the masters got their 4 jumps. It was good to see some of the Scottish guys totally ripping it up on their home turf, with Martyn James, Gregor Mitchell and Simon Andrews all going off.

All the riding from both days was filmed by BBC Scotland for a section on something called the adventure show. Some of you by now will have seen the footage. I for one was sorely disappointed and even angered by what I saw as it did not represent the standard of riding at the event in any way. There were no complete runs shown and with the number of cameras they had I'm sure this would have been possible. They showed far too many crashes and nowhere near

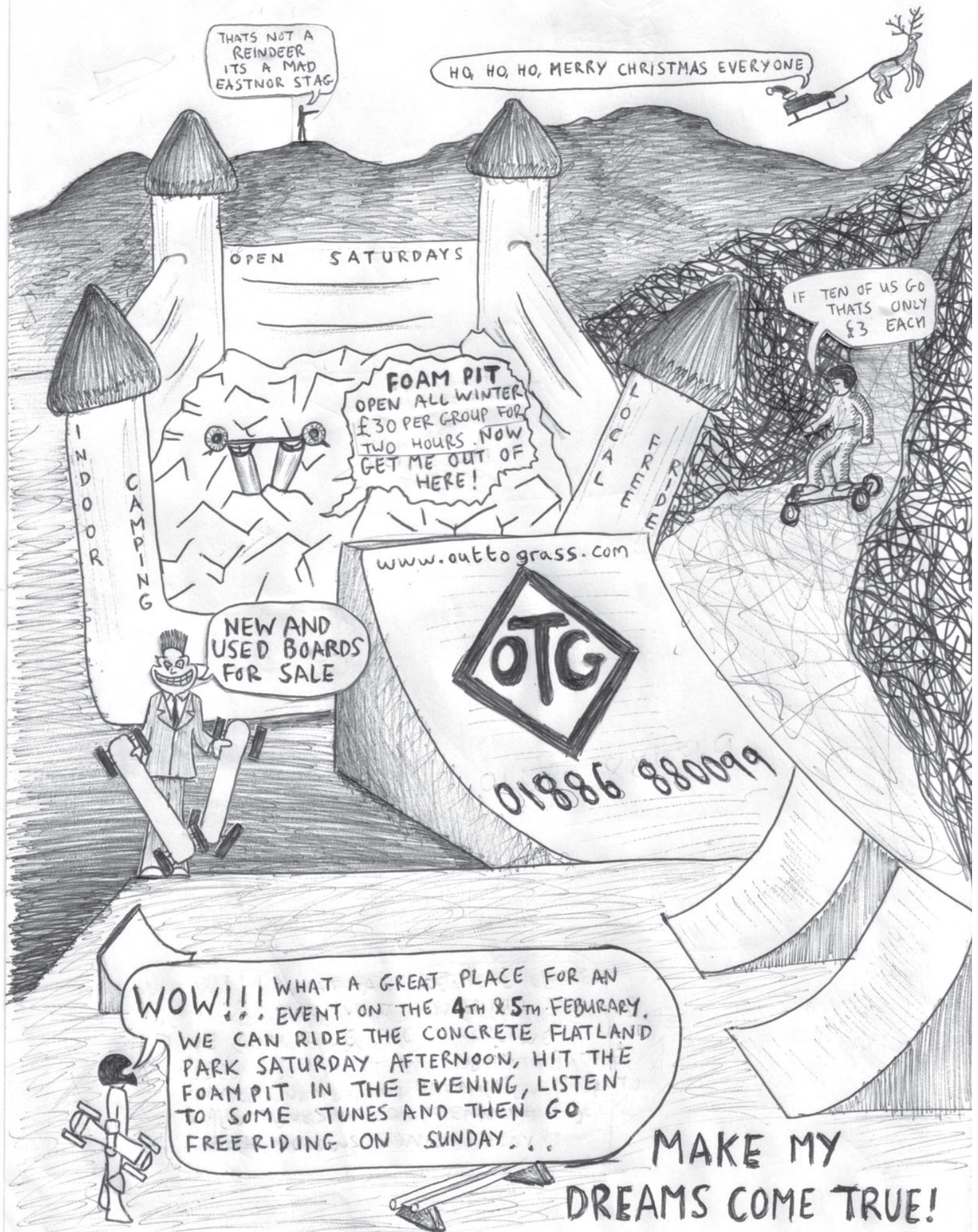


enough riding. This was especially the case for the freestyle where for a number of riders, out of the 4 jumps filmed they showed the only one where they crashed, and in the case of Leon Robbins actually edited a crashed landing onto something he did actually land - how utterly crap. So instead of showing good jumps like 360's and big tweaked airs they showed crashes. Thanks for nothing, guys.

I, for one, thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and would happily make the trek up there again just to ride the fire road, well done Scotland, it was awesome, it more than made for last years debacle. Plus who ever got the sun to show up and stay for the weekend deserves a few beers buying for him/her!

Words Paul B, Photos by www.ATBoarders.com/ Scuz Chris

I had a weird dream last night...



ROUND 4



TANTALUM ATBA - UK NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES 2005

OUT TO GRASS THE WET ONE

The weekend started well for me on Friday afternoon /evening with a little practise on track that was running very fast as the earth was baked solid.

The track went as follows, out the start gates and down the start ramp, pump through 4 rollers, jump the double, on to the first triple, some jumped the whole thing, I rolled the first and doubled the second two. Same again for me on the second triple, pump through 4 more rollers and onto the step-up step-down, some jumped up the step up and pumped down the other side, I went for the roll up and jump off the top option. Then on to 6 rollers, the last two of which could be doubled, which meant you hit the step-up roller to roller (commonly described by riders as the nipple) at top speed and either rattled through it as best you could or doubled the lot before you hit the split feature. With the righthand side and the fastest line was a roller joined to a table top, and the left hand line a gap jump with the face set further back than the right hand line. At this point the course bottle necked into a right hand berm straight into a step-up roller, landing into an S berm, left then right, over a roller into a step-up step-down, jumping off the top into a left hairpin berm and jumping the step-up double to finish.



The sun was out, and it was quite warm, so after a few runs to reacquaint myself with the track that I already knew having spent the previous weekend practising, I called it an evening and went to get some food.

Saturday dawned with a fair wind blowing and dark clouds everywhere, it looked stormy but we could only hope the weather would hold off. After the riders meeting the timed runs kicked off with the under 14's, Ladies and Masters taking their 3 timed runs first, followed by the under 18's and Open after a short break. The ladies, under 14's and masters managed to get through their first two runs before the weather broke, turning what had been a nice fast track into an increasingly slower mud bath; many of the riders happy with their first two times and opting not to bother with their last timed run which was certain to be slower. Unfortunately the rain just carried on, so by the time it came for Open and Under 18s timed runs the track was so slippery a clean run was practically impossible; all the riders now practising on this new track trying to get it dialled and work out how to ride it as it had completely changed.

By the time an extended practise had finished the track was really churned up and it was still raining. The under 18's stepped up first to start their timed runs, some of them only just made it to the first roller before they slid out, others made it a little further. Even the top U 18's were struggling in the muddy conditions, unable to pump the rollers properly to generate speed, riders were just stopping and getting stuck half way down the course. The timed runs were cancelled and a riders meeting was called after the ATBA committee had had time to discuss the situation. Racing was cancelled for the rest of the day, with a view to completing everything on Sunday providing the weather improved and the track was given time to dry out and recover. I retired to my tent to change out of my filthy mud caked riding gear and hide from the rain showers that had eased a bit, but were still hammering down from time to time. The foam pit was opened up later in the afternoon, and I was one of the many who really enjoyed throwing themselves down that huge rollin and into the foam pit, including my Team North compadre OJ who finally conquered his fear of the rollin and hit the foam pit for the first time.

...of the many who really enjoyed throwing themselves down that huge rollin and into the foam pit...

As the light departed and darkness descended the camping field started to take on the appearance of a mini festival with little bonfires here there and everywhere. At some point the band kicked off and pretty much rocked out from what I could tell from my little spot round a camp fire up on the hill. Lots of tunes and flashing lights and from what I could see people dancing. The best point of the evening by far though was the fire maze. Basically, it was a maze on the floor but with what marked the walls made out of a

flammable material, so when they were set fire, created walls of fire. Now it must have been pretty cool walking round the maze itself, but from where I was up on the hill it was an awesome site, you got the full effect! Good show!

Sunday dawned much brighter than the day before with a very early start scheduled to try and make up all the time that was lost the previous day. The track had dried out nicely and with the sunny spells and wind was continuing to dry nicely and was looking like it had before the rain. Riders were taking the opportunity to practise and check the track out now it was back to its former glory. Practise was dragging on a little longer than expected, and it became apparent there was problems with the timing system again; this on top of an already tight schedule for the day.

The decision was taken to use stop watches to get the times just like in the old days! Riders were sent down two at a time to try and speed the process up a bit. So finally the under 18's and open riders got there timed runs started, but as it happened the first run was to be the only timed run of the day for us. With no timing system and a very tight schedule for the day, after consultation from the riders rep it was decided to leave it as one timed run each and get the racing started.

‘Now we’re racing!’



ROUND 4

Under 14's, ladies and masters took it in turns to run through their qualifiers, quarters, semis and finals first. In the u 14's it was Seb Cox, Josh Campbell and Tristan Huxley, 1.2.3. In the ladies Niki Forcast(OTG) dominated on home turf not losing a race all day, first in the final followed by Kerry Pearn (MEBA) second and Diana Shepherdson (Atbshop) third. With the biggest masters contingent I have ever seen with 36 riders, it was all to fight for as automatic qualification was not guaranteed. Steve Birbeck (MBS) and Lawson David had been battling it out all weekend with Lawson qualifying fastest just 1 second faster than Steve. The victory however went to Steve with Lawson a very close second after a hard fought battle and Paul Sloggett third.

In the U 18's Tom Reid (MBS) dominated all weekend on his local track and took the win, with another local hero Will Herriot in second and Jacob Treliving third.

The Open saw a fantastic final with Renny Myles (MBS), PeteTatham (No-Sno) Nathan Jenkins (Trampa/Headworx) and Leon Dove (MBS). Renny took the win in his first race this season, with Pete hot on his tail in second and Nathan airing massively all the way down the course in third.

...airing massively all the way down the course...

Practise for the ladies, Under 18's and under 14's freestyle got straight underway as there was no time to loose. Yours truly got roped in to do some judging for the first time, not an easy job I tell you, and as such can't remember a lot of what went down.

In the under 14's Mick Kirkman took the win spinning 360's, followed closely by Kynan Goggin with huge airs and one footers. Jos Kirkman took the ladies win with Niki forcast second and Chloe Chew in third. The under 18's saw some fantastic riding, it was flipping crazy! AJ Lawson got third, massive airs and style, lots of rotations on multiple axis' and a 1080 attempt.

The under 18's saw some fantastic riding, it was flipping crazy!

Local ripper Tom Reid got second with some of the most fluid riding and best board slides I've seen all year. But the victory went to the mighty Joe Dixon, giving him three wins in total and the title of Under 18's freestyle champion 2005. But the best hit by far was seeing Muller from ATBoarders be the first person to hit the water rail, and not fall in.

By the time the open and masters riders were ready to do the first of their three freestyle runs the comp was running pretty late and I for one was knackered, all I can remember was that Renny Myles decimated the open category with huge styled airs and rotations at a ridiculous height. Steve Birbeck only just got the win in the masters followed closely by a spinning Lawson David, their battle continues. Who's going to win next year? Can't wait!

...their battle continues. Who's going to win next year?

I have to say a huge thank you to all the riders and spectators who exercised a huge amount of patience over weekend, when things were against us. As always though, we pulled through and got there in the end.

Commiserations must go out to Ross from Lard who broke his collar bone, and to Andy Ramsey who crawled off the track after, it was discovered he'd shattered his ankle. Andy has since spent many weeks in hospital with all manner of nasty painful things being done to him, to try and rebuild his ankle. Get well soon Andy and Ross.

Words Paul B.

Photos by Chris (Scuz), Brodie (Scuz) and www.hh-photography.com



Round 5

TANTALUM ATBA - UK NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES 2005 BOLESWORTH

The weekend started early for me on Friday afternoon dashing over to Leeds to get the last issue of Scuz for you lot, literally hot off the press, I'm sure some of the boxes were still warm as I loaded them into the car. Dashing back to Bolesworth via home to pick up essential supplies (beer!) I eventually arrived just in time to get padded up and get some practise in before it went dark. Good job too as I was having some trouble with the last corner and the steep before it.

... to pick up essential supplies (beer!)

The course: out the start gates, down the wooden ramp which joined the top of the dirt rollin already in place, hit two low rollers close together that most people were doubling and I chose to pump for speed before you hit the next two monster rollers. The two peaks must have been about 10-12 ft apart, and with the speed I was hitting these I had to double 'em, some people were still managing to roll through them but I certainly couldn't. After doubling the second two

rollers you were straight into the step up, down the three steps off the flat top of the step up and round the wide open left hander that follows, onto a short straight; were you had to set your self up for what was known as "the steep", as you might guess the next part of the course had a bit of gradient to it. After heading across the hill on the short straight you jumped up a small table top which then dropped 90 degree's right back down the hill on a very loose, steep off-camber surface. This corner seemed to favour the goofy riders, some of whom were jumping right into the steep using the table top kicker to hip jump, very nice to see, or were at least cutting the corner really tight. Most regular riders like me seemed to be riding along the table, then dropping into the steep further along, thus hoping to avoid catching a nasty heal edge like I did in practise; as well as getting themselves lined up right.

After you had managed to get into the steep section successfully you had to contend with hitting

a low very wide table top at mach 11, immediately followed by a very loose almost 90 degree left which saw a lot of the crashes of the weekend. If you made it round this left, you were heading down bearing right, with a huge sweeping wall of a berm on your left hand side. This fired you into the huge final table top jump, this thing was massive, at least 15ft long, man you got some serious air off this thing. When I first saw it the weekend before the race, the jump was a double and I was debating whether or not it could be cleared. Well by the time racing was under way I wasn't the only rider who overcooked it and flat landed it completely missing the landing and sliding over that finish line.

... and sliding over that finish line.

Dan Watson, course builder, what can I say, nice one mate, storming track. As my local track I was hoping the changes would be good and I couldn't have asked for more. Final jump needs the landing extended though!



Photo by www.hh-photography.co.uk

Ride Baby Ride



This final jump was the hot topic of conversation come Saturday morning with people still riding round it in practice. All was cleared up during the riders meeting during which riders were told they could go round to the right of the jump which would be a harder and slower line to take, but none the less gave them the option. Practise carried on in the morning sunshine after the riders meeting, good job too because I was still having trouble with the final corner, although with a bit of help (cheers Skully!) things were getting a little better.

After the usual wait timed runs kicked off as usual and we all had our three runs. Tom Reese (Trampa/Headworx) had the fastest time in the under 14's despite doing one of his qualifying runs in a pair of Elvis glasses smiling and waving at spectators on the way down, class. Nat Reynolds (Ride the Hill) took the quickest time for the Ladies closely followed by Sacha Bush (MBS) and Kerry Pearn (MEBA). Steve Birkbeck (MBS) took the quickest qualifying time in Masters with Lawson David hot on his heels. The under 18's was unbelievably close for the fastest qualifying time coming down to thousandths of seconds between Tom Kirkman (Team Exit) and Jonathan Charles (noSno), JC took it. Fastest qualifier of the day was Pete Tatham (noSno) in the Open Category with a time of 24.1 seconds, very closely followed by brother Dave with 24.3 seconds.

With qualifying over it was on with the racing and what great day it was. In the under 14's, the two fastest riders in qualifying Tom Reese (Trampa/Headworx) and Josh Holcombe (Atbshop) were knocked out in the semi's and quarters with some close contact racing, leaving Seb Cox (Ride the hill) fresh off a plane from America to take the win with Joel Treiving (Trampa/Headworx) very close on his heels.

The Masters saw some fantastic racing into an unreal final...

In the ladies Rosie Wilson (Scrub) relatively free from injury for once kept a cool head to take her first win this year. The Masters saw some fantastic racing into an unreal final where Steve Birkbeck (MBS) and Lawson David fought all the way to the line with Lawson finally emerging triumphant after a season long battle with Steve. Congratulations Lawson, you have earned it.

The under 18's gave us the most controversial racing of the day with Tom Kirkman (Exit) getting disqualified in the quarter finals. A huge pile up in the last corner meant Tom had to connect with other racers, both for their benefit and his to avoid a serious smash. After this contact had taken place Tom crossed the line first, and a decision hard as it must have been was taken to disqualify Tom, as contact between racers is forbidden. This did not detract from the final however with JC (noSno) having not lost a race all day taking the win in the final, fighting with AJ Lawson (Trampa/Headworx) and Joe Dixon (MBS) all the way to the line. This win gave JC the Overall BX No1 for the season, and kept him smiling all night.

The Open category was not without its own fair share of surprises; with the course and the racing taking its toll on some of the fastest riders of the weekend, some of them not even making it through to the quarter finals. We ended up with two new and two old faces in the final, Pete Tatham (noSno) and Renny Miles (MBS) with Nial Henn (G-4S) and Tim Ford (MEBA). Pete took the win with a frighteningly quick race run airing into the steep Renny hot on his tail, Nial third and Tim in fourth.

Freestyle at Round 3



scrub

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Send your entry by email to competition@scuz.info or by mail to the address in the back of this issue. Oh, and if you can tell us where you get your copy of Scuz from, that'd be well appreciated too.

COURTESY OF

scrub



With the racing over for the season all that was left to do was celebrate it, and celebrate we did. With the new stage at Bolesworth lit up and the parachutes on the roof blowing in the wind it looked like some weird living organism. Music played, beers were drunk and the band Skank'd eventually played a full set despite some generator problems which meant the crowd was entertained by some fantastic drum solo's from the drummer, who filled in whilst that rest of the band waited for the power to come back.

Sunday dawned as bright and sunny as you could possibly imagine, forcing the many hangover victims to don their sun glasses!

... who had clearly lost his brain during the nights festivities ...

The Superbole quickly filled with freestylers of all ages hitting the different lines, rails and jumps. This year saw the addition of a second small table top to the right after the landing of the first large table. Riders were going off even in practise, particularly AJ Lawson, who had clearly lost his brain during the nights festivities and resplendent in a pink skinny fit t-shirt was trying to land a back flip to 50-50 down the kink rail. He came extremely close; this is the most insane riding I've seen since the world freestyle champs.

Tom Reed was going off with huge tweaked grabbed back flips winning the under18's, with Martyn James gnashing at his heels in second place, this is another rider who goes practically orbital when he takes off, a great freestyler, when is someone going to sponsor this kid?

... with a 50-50 to 180 to switch 50-50 on the RAINBOW rail, super tech, ...

Garry Bowman got a deserved fourth place in the Open with a 50-50 to 180 to switch 50-50 on the RAINBOW rail, super tech, excellent to see right in front of the judges who I was sat with. Renny Miles took the win in the Open with his own unique style of massive super tweaked airs, including an enormous 720 which he didn't land clean in his judged run and was forced to do again and land clean by the crowd. Congratulations to northern ripper Chloe Chew who took the win in the ladies with some solid runs and to Lawson David who took the win in the masters with the first ever 540 seen in Masters freestyle.

Well that's it for another summer season, for all the race results and the overall positions go to www.atbauk.org and select 'Events' from the tabs at the top of the page. Also keep your eyes peeled there for details of the new winter races that are in preparation.
For winter season check www.outtograss.com/eastnor.html for details.



Words Paul B.
Photos by Chris (Scuz), Brodie (Scuz),
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BoarderX at Round 5



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FLIPPED 24 CHALLENGE - COURT FARM - FLIPPED 24 CHALLENGE

A mountainboard season without an event at **Court Farm Mountainboard Centre** would be like a full English breakfast without any bacon, it just wouldn't be right!

So when it was announced that local Hereford skate shop Flipped 24 were holding an event there, mountainboarders throughout the country were delighted at the fact they'd be able to compete on one of Britain's fastest boarder x courses on the day in question, the 20th/21st of August.

The thing that made this event extra special was the fact that the lovely people at Flipped 24 had offered up a somewhat obese total of **£1000** to be divided between the winners of the open category: a huge incentive for riders to **step up the standard of their game**... Who would walk away with the cash?

On Friday the age categories were decided with the 8-12s, 13-16s, ladies and the 16+ open categories. All categories would be racing on the 2003 race track apart from the open category, whose riders would be racing on the faster paced 2004 track. It was clear that there was going to be some spectacular racing in every class due to the quality of riders that turned out.

... there was going to be some spectacular racing in every class ...

After a hard days practice Friday evening passed without too many crazy antics and most riders decided to get a good nights sleep for what would be a hard days racing in the summer heart of the Hereford countryside.

Saturday morning came and some riders were up nice and early attempt to get the track dialled cleaner and faster than everyone else, the timing system had been set up and in no time at all the qualifiers for the under 12s, under 16s and ladies were under way with seasoned riders such as Tuai Lovejoy and Niki Forecast storming down the track. It was also good to watch newcomers such as Jonathan Minton getting to grips with one of the UK's hardest tracks.

Just as the open riders were preparing themselves for their timed qualifying runs the digital timing system decided to give up and stop working. Everyone was then informed by a certain Joe Jones that the system wouldn't be up and running for the afternoon and that the open category would have to qualify using the moto system.

At first this was quite daunting for most riders as the idea of suddenly racing 4 man down the extremely tight and fast course just to qualify didn't seem so appealing.

However the qualifiers got under way and soon the riders were into it and all stepped up, with riders such as Jonathan Charles and Steve Birkbeck hurtling down the track; the biggest highlight during qualifying was Renny Myles showing everyone just how good at freestyle he really is by getting air off the back of a big left hand berm.



After many impressive and close calls in the knockout races it was soon time for the finals in the ladies, under 12s and under 16s categories.

Niki Forecast walked away with first place in the ladies with Court Farm local Amy Stephens taking second after a close race with Chloe Chew. The under 12s final saw Ride The Hill rider Seb Cox take third place after some extremely fast paced racing with Joe Night who took second, but yet again it was team Trampa's Tom Reese who snatched first place after flying down the course with a style that most riders should be envious of.

In the under 16s it was Court Farm's local Tom "ginger ninja" Donaldson who claimed first place with Dom Cox following him down closely to grab second place, leaving Tom Howe to take third place after a fast clean race.



As the afternoon progressed spectators gathered around the 2004 track ready and eager to watch the open racing and see which riders would walk away with the cash prizes. The knockout rounds started and the proper racing began with riders colliding in the sweeping berms and bailing after doubles; after every round well renowned riders were being knocked out.

...with riders colliding in the sweeping berms and bailing after doubles...

Some of the most impressive riding of the day came from ladies UK champion Niki Forecast who competed in the open class and managed to take a 12th place in the racing, showing just how much the standard of ladies competition has come on recently, or how fair ahead of the rest of the ladies Niki currently is! Well done Niki.

The day went on, and after many impressive and close races eventually only four riders remained: the finalists lined up in the start gate.

3. 2. 1. GO! Beiran Stelzer-Martlew, Renny Myles, Joe Dickson and moi all heaved out of the start gate into the first berm and over the first double, Renny and Beiran flew into the second berm wheel to wheel and slid out, I kept it clean finding a line through the cloud of dust and down the track; Joe Dickson had the lot and took the lead from the start with me second and Beiran snatching third place.

Once the prize giving was over the bbq was started and the evening fun began! People were sat round the Trampa fire, bouncing around on the trampoline or chatting with friends: everyone was having a good time. The late night entertainment was provided by Renny Myles with his crazy antics and who could possibly forget AJ Lawson's tales of hard times?!



...late night entertainment was provided by Renny Myles with his crazy antics...

Eventually the morning pie rose in the sky and riders crept out of their tents, tired after the last days events, yet eager for the freestyle competition; but first it was time for what was quite possibly the worlds steepest slalom competition!

The slalom competition consisted of 2 man races through slalom gates down the main steep hill at court farm partly over a really rutted section with an immensely tight and fast corner at the bottom just before the finish line. This old school form of racing proved quite a challenge to some riders but the king of old school style Jay Davis showed everyone how to ride a slalom course with a smooth and flowing style reminiscent of early skateboarders. Unfortunately for Jay he didn't manage to make it into the final and it was up to Ride the Hill's Stuart Lugger to fight it out with local hero Tom Donaldson to see who would ride out on top. The final was amazingly tight with Tom being so close to Stu all the way down the track that if Stu would have made the tiniest of mistakes Tom would have had the opportunity to overtake, The finishing line for the final had been moved over to the water jump and Stu Lugger glided through the air like a ton of bricks before crashing into the water merrily content with first place!



The slopestyle course at court farm consists of so many features crammed into a relatively small place: there's 3 large table tops in a row, a mini table top, a table top which can be hipped into another hip, a down rail, a flat rail and a table top which also forms the second hip. Writing doesn't do it justice, to see the possibilities of lines you really have to visit the place and see it for yourself.



After a few practice runs for every rider the freestyle competition got under way for the under 12s, ladies and under 16s categories. In the ladies category Niki Forecast yet again showed how much her riding has improved by getting serious air over the 3 table tops and pulling out some sweet mute grabs to take away first place, little Melissa Gatley showed amazing potential for the future by riding with style and claiming second place.

In the under 12's Seb Cox took first place after riding with a fluid style and going huge over every obstacle in his way, this left Tom Reese to settle for second place after experimenting with different lines; Joe Knight rode well and took third place after some smooth runs. Jamie Elliot claimed third in the under 16s and local rider Sam Nicholas threw down some stylish grabs and 360s but it was team Terfware's Tuai Lovejoy who walked away with first place after nailing one footers and 360s with style and attitude.

The open category saw some amazing riding with an abundance of inventive and creative riding from most riders. During practice Richie Heard was stomping 360s off of every single obstacle he could in one run but unfortunately during the competition he just couldn't stick the landings and slid out. Joe Dickson was spinning off of everything and nailed some smooth backflips to take third place. Renny Myles was being his usual self with huge floaty 360s but on one of his runs he bailed it boardsliding the flat rail so he had to settle for second place.

...every trick he did was stomped cleanly and fluidly,...

The most impressive and inventive riding of the day came from Trampa's U.S. rider AJ Lawson who managed to find a new line every single run. AJ was riding with the smoothest style, whether he was boardsliding the rail, underflipping the tabletop or throwing 3s off of the slide box - every trick he did was stomped cleanly and fluidly, even more amazing considering AJ had spent the better part of Saturday in a Herford hospital after a particularly savage stack on the boarder cross!

As soon as the freestyle competition was over people chilled in the sun, splashed around in the water jump and generally just sat back and soaked up the atmosphere.

And then it was over. An amazing weekend in a beautiful area of England! **Huge thanks** have to go out to Niki, Simon and everyone who helped out at court farm, MBS, Scrub, KIK clothing, Dirt & Surf and Terware for providing prizes, but the biggest thanks of all has to go to Flipped24, a company who was willing to invest money into our sport! And for those of you who haven't had the pleasure of visiting court farm, what are you waiting for?!?! Court farm provided the perfect setting for a great weekend and I for one can't wait to go back there!

Check www.scuz.info in the spot guide section for directions.



Words by Rhys Crilley
Photos by Mr Crilley

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In Swindon, there are loads of little bastards. But the one we're interested in is actually just outside Swindon.

Here, the views improve exponentially, there are a few hills instead of tower blocks and these more often than not are covered in woodland. Now everyone (at least everyone I know) agrees that when done properly, Mountain-boarding + Forestry Commission land = Goodness of the highest order.

Now, slowly but surely a relationship is developing between ourselves and the guardians of some of the finest terrain our land has to offer. We weren't the first to have permission – luckily for some; in certain places the mountainbikers have been there first and have done the bulk of the work already.

And so for some of us, with access to the internet, some good Ordnance Survey maps showing contours and a car full of mates, good riding can often be found within a few hours of travelling.

However Scuz MZ, being D.I.Y. as f*ck, like to do things ourselves and we like to big up those others of us who feel the same and share the ethic.

Meet (again!) Gary Holcombe (of team BAD, Team MEBA, the UKATBA) and Ant Wilson (at least as qualified as Gary but without the certificates to prove it!), who have recently been involved in putting together a code of conduct, along with the local Forestry Commission, with the intention of having this document as a point of reference for other riders wanting to use or build on Forestry Commission land across the UK.

The bikers have done it before and had some success, certainly the favourite north England woodland spot Delamere cycle skills area is Forestry Commission land, and with permission and hard work a very respectable set up is now permanent. However if you have ever tried building only to return and find your work sabotaged, then you need to read on my brother!

...and with permission and hard work a very respectable set up is now permanent.

The actual spot is only minutes away from where Gary lives, and it's a spot that Ant had also thought about since starting riding, having walked dogs there in a previous life. Gary had been saying to son Josh that... 'We'll have to find somewhere new to ride'.

Gary: 'There were a few little tracks near to the little bastard, and so we just started clearing a few of them out. Made a few wrong turnings, but once it started to look a bit more like something, gave Ant a call 'we've found a place,' Ant came up...

Ant: With Gary living so close it has been easy for him to put time in...

Lots of it in fact. To get it to where it is now has taken around 18 months, Gary doing most of the clearing out of the track and the digging, and Ant doing most of the shaping.

Martin from Team MEBA, put a letter into the forestry commission asking if it would be possible to ride the spot. The forestry commission reply was that they haven't got the manpower to keep it safe. Gary sort of took on the responsibility being the most local and proposed 'what about if we put a code of conduct in and we keep it safe, and you get someone to come along and check it out?'



Ant: It all progressed from there really, we met them in the woods when we were riding there...

Gary: Thought 'Oh sh*t here we go, we're going to get hoofed off...'

Ant: But he was great, we're on first name terms with him, and he's gone off to his higher's and pushed for it, so it's the Forestry Commission itself that's pushed for a lot of it.

Gary: Yeah he actually phoned me and said 'if you're going to have a track, lets get it sorted, we'll work together... I've now got a code of conduct available to riders, these are going to be available electronically for riders across the UK to download and print out and take with them to Forestry spots.'

This document, with Gary's permission, we will make available through the Scuz site, and everyone riding in future at a forestry commission spot is advised to carry one; it would be likely to engender good relations with the forestry commission officials from the initial contact. It is also available at the end of the article.

A few things that Gary and Ant did want us to pass on resulting from their involvement is that up and down the country people are building using wood.

Often the FC will sanction building, but they don't like wood being used in the construct because it rots, and people hit it, and it's not good. But they are not worried about digging holes, so long as everything is walkable from the top to the bottom, so no pits!

One more thing they request is that there are 'chicken runs' round obstacles and out of every sharp corner there must be access out, for safety reasons.

Follow this gospel in your own building and it is unlikely to be torn down in your absence.

Another thing the guys now do which is encouraged by the FC, is sign a sort of club disclaimer, a MEBA team disclaimer as The Little Bastard is a club run area.

Ant: It is a bit of an invite only sort of place at the moment...

Gary: Because we have got to keep it safe...

Ant: Gary comes up and litter picks it twice a week, in case there's an inspection comes round, and we don't want a load of people there without us knowing about it, no disrespect to any of the mountainboarders... but it has to stay invite only at the moment. We will be inviting a lot of people of course!

Gary: Until it's all sorted like...

Ant: Because this is the first ever time that the forestry commission has worked with mountainboarders on a dirt track, so we don't want to offend them in anyway...

We all know that Neo Labour are mostly a bunch of f*ckers, but having decided that one of their wars is going to be on obesity (maybe read fat people), it would appear that the government no longer think skateboarding is a crime, and, as you

may have noticed (I certainly have) the frequency with which skateparks (some extremely good, some not so) have been appearing around the UK, then it would appear that we have the upper hand, or in the least we are regarded in higher esteem than we were, and than those with a larger appetite and a higher cholesterol level.

With mountainboarding being such good clean fun, a family backed sport and just as photogenic as you like, you might say NOW is our time! So Lets get on it!

Scuz are going to make this code of conduct and the disclaimer public and for download from the Scuz site (www.scuz.info/misc/codeof-conduct.rtf), so for all the rest of you guys riding without permission on forestry commission land, download this and print it out, and then look up www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/HCOU-4U4HZS for contact details for the local guardians of your spot, and let them have a look at the document. If any problems occur, then you can advise them to get in touch with the department that looks after the woods containing The Little Bastard for reassurance on what a great bunch of lunatics we are.

Same goes for anyone who has previously been kicked off forestry land for riding there, this document is now a way to start meaningful dialogue with the authorities.



Both Ant and Gary will be happy to take riders there, when we had the little chat above Gary mentioned that at least once per month MEBA are likely to be riding there during the winter, so get in touch, either through ATBShop for Ant, or Team MEBA for Gary.

So that's the low down on the Forestry Commission and riding their land.

The course itself is testament to Gary and Ant's skills and determination, and is a little like Team North's fave Delamere forest Bike skills track, but is a little longer, and has a bit more happening through the run. I won't describe what happens on the way down, but it's a spot that beginners can ride slowly with soft tyre pressure and get right to the bottom first go, but with harder tyres will also push confident riders to ride it harder and it IS fast...

Or maybe take a steeper gnarlier line, it's even possible to sack the course proper and cut a straight line right from the starting point to the finish, down the steepest narrowest bits of track. A few of the riders were (namely Ant, Steve Birkbeck, Stu Lugger and Harris Corr – respect to you guys!), everyone else was just having great fun riding it, plenty of MEBA guys were in attendance, Gollum (Grant), Frodo from ATBShop, Martin and Tink

Quadlin, little Ben and Big Ben, Dave, James, Wiggy, Josh Holcombe and even the ATBA supremo Joe Jones.

Even though I was a bit late, and a bit hungover, a few runs and I was fully energised. I kept thinking about having a little break after about the fifth run, but just couldn't bring myself to stop! It really is a great spot, so if you fancy a sesh there in the future, then I guess keep checking the MEBA message board for a future session, as they are going to be happening.

Shout out to all the riders who were there, Respect to those who rode hardest, especially young Harris Corr, who was nailing everything on high tyre pressures, and Stu Lugger, Steve, Ant and whoever else went for the Mass decent (which was amazing, everyone setting off at once, taking different lines down, all coming into the end stretch together – proper mental!), and particularly Ant and Gary, stalwarts of the scene, builders of the course, and provider of much of this information for you.

Words by Andy W.
Photos by Toni Howef



I GIVE THREE THE ...


MEBA "Little Bastard" CODE OF CONDUCT

- 1: All riders must wear adequate padding and a helmet.
- 2: All riders do so at their own risk
- 3: All riders must have signed a disclaimer available from Gaz Holcombe (details below)
- 4: Pick up all litter (even if it's not yours!!!)
- 5: No unauthorised digging or removal of ANY trees!!!
- 6: Park only in designated parking areas.
- 7: Make sure track is clear before setting off and a loud shout of "RIDER" always helps.
- 8: Do not ride track alone.
- 9: Please keep noise to a minimum level possible.
- 10: Be curious and polite to all other woodland patrons.

The woods are a very busy place so keep eyes and ears on all the tracks. The wood is used by many other groups, walkers etc; and it is for this reason this track is invite only with all riders having signed disclaimers.

Disclaimers and ride information available from Gaz Holcombe on
mob: 07900261632 or Email: info@meba-world.com





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spot guide

CROOKED AND BADGER

So, you get your board, pads, some grub, some drinks, and whatever else you might need, and stick them in a car (if its not your car, be sure to obtain the keys first). This car is going to need petrol, especially if you don't live in Dursley (chances are you won't) so go and get some, use your initiative.

If you're based up north (the poverty and rusting remains of industry should give it away), you'll need to get on some motorway and head south, then South West when you get the option. Due to the traffic on today's carriageways, I would allow about a week.

If you're in the south (weird accents, pompous behaviour and shandy drinking should alert you), then you'll need to head West (allow maybe 3 days with the current state of road repairs). If you're in the south west already – Don't do anything yet!

If you have an A-Z (you'll need one), have a look at Gloucester, and follow the M5 south, you'll see Dursley down there. Just under the Y on Dursley is Stinchcombe Hill, also known as Breakheart Hill I think, and soon to be known as Broken-riders Hill.

This applies to all of you now, head for the A4135, you'll probably be coming from the A38, unless you're coming from the big smoke. Take the A 4135 out of Dursley towards Tetbury, up a steep bendy hill, very near the top is a right turn, Signposted "Stinchcombe hill" it's a switch back so look out.

Take this road 3/4 mile or so till you find the "Travellers" site, park up just beyond and enter the woods on the right hand side, by the bridleway signs.

As you wander down this track, with its woodland sounds and smells, you may start to feel pleasant. Don't be duped, you are not here for a laugh. You are here to ride or die.

BE AFRAID. BE VERY AFRAID.

As you wander further down, there is a bit of a pathway off to the left. That will take you to the chute that team Bad call "Badger w*nk". Steve classes it as a warm-up run, but only in comparison to the mustard itself. Badger is not a warm up run, but it is a lot of fun. I wouldn't attempt it blind, but none the less, its doable, fast, exciting, and if you come off, provided to don't come out of the shoot and start falling down the steep woodland outside of it, you will be fine (yes, the voice of experience talking!).

TAKE YOU THERE



Photo by Craig Hellen

Badger is doable from the top of the chute to the bottom. LET AIR OUT OF YOUR TYRES BEFORE RIDING IT THOUGH. I ride 4 ply tyres, and 10 p.s.i is quite sufficient, especially in the dry.

Once you have claimed this run 'You're mine a**hole!', then at the top of the chute, have a look at the drop into it, and see how far back you can start from and still make it. Good lad / (lass?).

LET AIR OUT OF YOUR TYRES BEFORE RIDING IT

Then walk back to the track you came in on. Make sure you walk Crooked and check the size of the boulders first. You may well need to move some. Again, I would ride this with low tyre pressures, and well, do you're best, stay to the sides of the berms, if it feels like you're going to come off, fight it, and hold on.

The first time I saw it, I didn't dare ride it. Returning to this spot about 1 year exactly from the time I saw it ridden, I knew I couldn't not try it. Third go and I was eating mustard and spitting the seeds out at God. "Come and get me then. I dare you...I double dare you...!"

I was absolutely hammered on adrenalin for at least two days afterwards, and well, that's what its all about is it not?

Footnote: There are lots of other places to ride in the area if you're a bit put off by Crooked's ugly features, Nibley, Birdlip and Randwick are all close by. There are also many other runs available near Crooked so I'm told. Crooked Mustard is an advanced only riders. To ride Crooked properly you need to believe, and maybe use the force a little.

Spotted by Andy W.



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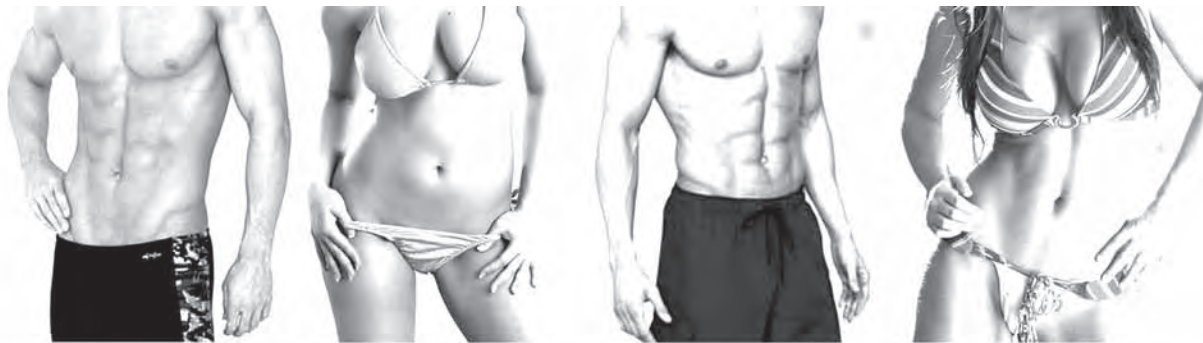
SPECIAL PRICE £220

CHANNEL

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SURFING SUMMER SEASON

Right, you may remember from a Scuz zine, maybe 2 issues ago, we ran a story with a bit of information on doing a ski season; snowboarding is expensive and the best way to do it in our estimation, especially while the weather up north allows for little, but staying in and consuming alcohol, or crack - is to do a season!

Weh Hey! Cost's averted and five months of gnarling up the mountain into the bargain.

Paul B had told me about his season (before you got to read about it in Scuz) and so I decided to do one myself. All went well, good season and all, hard work, Snowboarding's cool as f*ck etcetera etcetera.

But it was upon my return that things were a little hard to deal with. I managed to return having not spent a single solitary penny of the money I earned whilst chalet hosting. Now chalet hosting is hardcore, probably one of the most hardcore jobs on the mountain. Free food and reasonable tips were its only redeeming features, and the tips only really felt like a redeemable feature upon my return to the UK after a quick check on the old bank balance.

Anyway, the long and short of it was, I had a bit of cash, nowhere to live and nowhere to be. If ever academics try and find a formula for fun, they could do worse than look at the one I beheld. I started looking for work, while dossing at my girlfriend's parents house (at 28 quite embarrassing, I can tell you!).

I didn't want to go back into an office job, and had started to see that the best thing to do would be working a summer somewhere equally as fun as winter, with the same work/fun sort of program in mind.

Nowhere to live and nowhere to be!

Now then this won't suite those riding at the very top of their game, as you will need to spend your summers waiting around for competitions...

But I wasn't going to win the UKATBA open, and some of the boys had agreed they were going and going to cover the event for Scuz regardless of my input.

So I was off the hook! I wanted to do something a bit more novel with my summer; after nearly obtaining a job at a centre for the summer, (obviously a preferred job if ever there was going to be one!), I eventually settled for heading for Cornwall, with a bit of cash and a few CV's (good references are the key to anything matey!!).





Now looking for work and sorting it out before you set off is obviously the best way to go. Look on Natives (www.natives.co.uk) again, same as in winter, but check the summer job section, obviously the positions offered are not snowboarding jobs, and they are not nearly as numerous as the winter ones, but don't be put off. If you have become at all competent at French, during schooling and/or on the mountain, you may want to go straight to somewhere like Hossegor, or Biarritz in the French Basque region, for surfing.

If what noSno get up to, is what you want your summer to be like, I think the best resource is probably www.anyworkanywhere.com, here you can find summer bar jobs in open Alpine Resorts (and also across the rest of Europe and further afield, some of which does sound more character building than fun though, so be careful and do your research properly!), and even some chalet hosting and things, the lifts do stay open for walkers and mountainbikers during the summer (I believe Les Gets has a World Cup downhill bike course – for reference, and we all know what happens in the summer in Morzine and in the Italian Alps once per year).

We all know what happens in the summer in Morzine and in the Italian Alps once per year!

If despite you're best efforts, nothing turns up (nothing I really fancied did in the timescale I was hoping it to), don't give up. I personally wouldn't travel right down to France or Spain looking for work on the coast or in the mountains, without being able to speak the language reasonably well, or without having some offer of employment, but then that's just me and many more daring types than myself do it, often using resources such as Lonely Planet books, coupled with something like Susan Griffith's *Work your way round the world* (now in its 11th edition I think).

No...when nothing turned up, I went down towards Newquay, having had Watergate Bay, just north of Newquay recommended to me by Paul B.

Because I was there at the right time, I was fixed up with employment (not altogether gainful it has to be said!) within 2 days. It really is that easy.

Walk into campsite... 'Don't suppose you need any staff for the summer?'

'Yes actually, I will need this and this and this, and I pay this...'

'Yes actually, I will need this and this and this, and I pay this...'

'Cheers! Yeah, I'd be up for doing so and so...'

Walk into next place... '...Don't suppose you're going to need any staff over summer?'

'Yes, we need this and this and this, and we pay this....'

See a pattern?

Within two weeks of having started, I had found a Caravan for 150 quid. Many of the others I met doing the same as me down there paid similarly little, some employers even offer accommodation for around 30 quid/week.

My employment was with the Watergate Bay Hotel, as I have mentioned in previous zines, and they had a nice little incentive for you to stay until the end of the summer – hold fifty pence for every hour you work until the end of the summer, and give you it as a bonus. Nice. The hotel will also lend you Surfboards and wetsuits for the summer if you work there, another bonus (of course there's nothing like having your own gear, and it's easy to get sorted with decent nick second hand gear when you're down there). As far as I am aware many of the hotels in this area (along the Devon and Cornwall Atlantic coast) do very similar, as there are also many migrant workers that also come to do similar, as there is such an abundance of work available.

As I also managed to bag night security job on the campsite, so was camping for nearly free, I had plenty of time to learn to surf which I managed, plenty of time to get hammered and socialise, and it was jolly good all round, and I still managed to save up plenty of money, because I didn't have much to spend it on.



... IT'S UP 2 YOU

There are sh*t loads of resort places, and Hotels, Bars, Restaurants etc providing work along that stretch of coast, their business is mostly in summer, particularly the six week holiday. Get there just before then and you will definitely get a job. Get there way before that, around the start until the middle of May, and you can just about (with the right CV and references, wink nudge) take your pick of them.

The other bonus about doing a summer season, maybe it's just me and after chalet hosting anything is easy, but doing a summer season was a lot more chilled out than the winter one.

Doing a summer season was a lot more chilled out than the winter one.



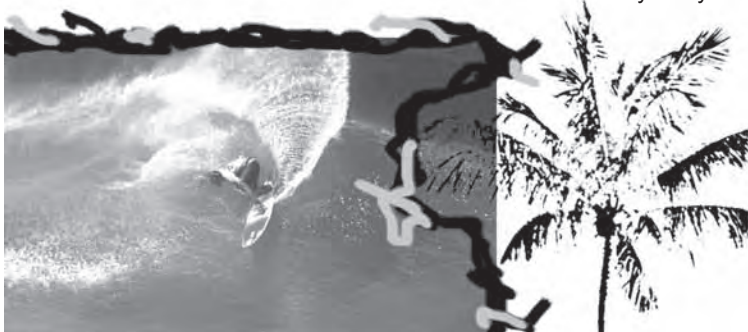
Plenty of other people are going to be coming and doing the same as you, and it is a right old time although you'll need to get to know some locals if you're really serious about surfing, because without local knowledge you'll be surfing the same touristed breaks the whole summer, instead of travelling to session different ones, which is a buzz. Another buzz for me was just living a really low impact lifestyle (eating fresh vegetables, and not drinking cans of lager much creates little waste), and not being in a built up area - I must have seen about ten times as many sunsets as you would in the city, some of which will stay permanently etched into my memories.

... permanently etched into my memories.

A lot of my memories of this summer consist of surfing though, or just mooching around in just a pair of boardies, smoking sticks and throwing Frisbee in the sun. I also learned to play didgeridoo in my spare time. It was mint. There's so many worse ways to spend the summer if you're broke and you've nowhere to be...

...to be continued one day.

Words by Andy W.



RIDER PROFILE

NAME : Niki Forecast
AGE : 16
WHERE : Colwall nr Malvern
OCCUPATION : Student
LOCAL SPOT : Out To Grass
SEX : Female
SPONSOR : None

YEARS RIDING : 3
SEASONS COMPETING : 3

FAVORITE SPOT : Out To Grass



RIDER PROFILE

NO. 1

Weapon of choice + setup: MBS Comp 16 pro, yellow egg shocks, yellow heel bungees (very important that they're yellow apparently) and Out To Grass sticker job.

Riding Kit (pads/helmet etc): 661 Assault Suit, TSG knee pads, UFO elbow pads, 1 Harbinger wrist guard (Chewy) 1 Rollerblade wrist guard (OTG)

What was the best course on the ATBA series this year and why?
Haredown for being scary and Out To Grass for being fun. Scotland fire road deserves a mention as it was a nice change.

Who were your main challengers this year: Jos Kirkman (MBS) and Kerry from MEBA.

Did you feel much pressure: Yes in Freestyle, me and Jos were fighting it out all season, but unfortunately I was injured and couldn't compete at Bolesworth and that kind of settled it. Boarder Cross was a pretty open field and you had to beat everyone so there was less specific pressure.

Fave 3 foods: Ambrosia Custard, Dumplings (my Dads), Mashed Potato

Fave drink: Malibu and Coke

Favourite Music/bands/DJ's: Jurassic 5

Any other hobbies apart from Mountainboarding: Kiting, Snowboarding and Freeboarding.

If you had to give a beginner mountain boarder one piece of advice, what would it be? Ride lots, coz practise makes perfect, and try out lots of boards before you buy one.

Any thank you's: Ian Johnson from OTG, Charlotte Jones for getting me into mountain biking and Hinch for being Hinch.

NIKI FLYING OVER THE DOUBELS AT O.T.G.



AN ORIGINAL FROM SCUZ ISSUE 9!

NO.9
Winter IssueFree!!
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Diego Anderson –

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it will stay like a great moment of madness in my life...'





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AND THERE TREV WAITED....



Team MBS arrived and settled into hotel Adventura. The guest list included, international mountainboard legend Leon Robbins, French MBS team manager and Masters World freestyle champion Diego Anderson, along with British champions Renny Miles and Joe Dickson. UK team manager A.J. Watkins was there to clean up the mess (or was that to create it).

Team noSno was headed as usual by Dave and Pete Tatham – mountainboard designers and the pioneers of big mountain freeride. Pete Tatham, holder of 8 British Championship titles won the Italian Downhill last year with Dave always hot on his heels. British Champion Chris McCarthy alongside Andy Potter and Jack Herniman made for a noSno team that has podiumed at every downhill event they ever entered. As usual the competition was just the start of another freeride tour.

Friday

The 4-man course was changed from previous years and actually started where the old course finished. Being lower on the mountain the terrain was quite superb and had the bonus of both the start and finish being in the perfect view of two well-frequented bar/cafes. The course started on a raised area of ground and dropped quickly across a car park and then disappeared down a very fast sweeping track on a riding surface that all agreed was near perfection. The riders eventually flew out into an open meadow where at high speed they were faced with a difficult sunken road to cross or gap. For most the only option was to gap it before turning hard left into the finish straight.

The course was far faster and longer than those used in the UK but there was so much space that overtaking was plentiful and crashes avoidable. At about 1.5km in 1.5 minutes its not difficult maths to see just how fast it was.

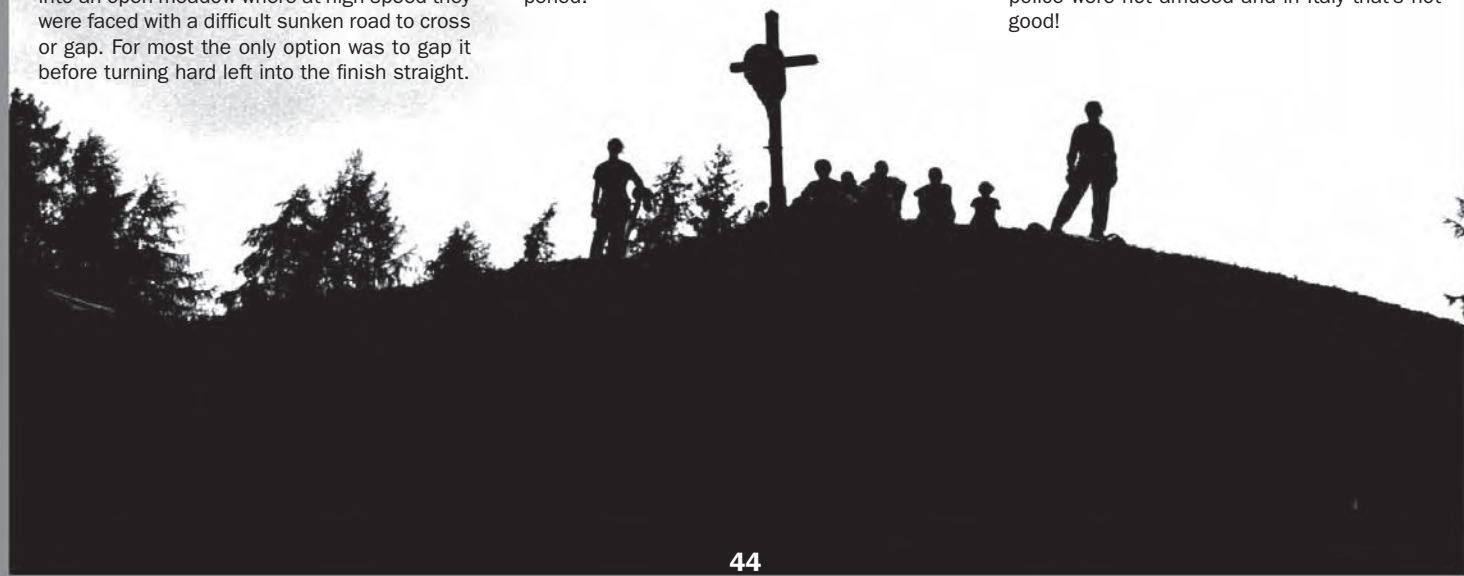
Single man qualification took place to seed the riders with electronic timing (by the Associazione Cronometristi Cortina, Federation of Italian Timekeepers.) making sure the results were accurate. The 12" noSno Pro Downhills were setting the pace with Leon Robbins close behind. In his final run Leon borrowed Pete Tatham's boots and board and set too on the course. Never having properly ridden a noSno, let alone one with 12" wheels and hydraulic brakes, people at the bottom were a little apprehensive – especially Pete who didn't want his board all smashed up. To everyone's relief Leon flew into view and crossed the line clean. Not only had he knocked 9 seconds off his time but he also got in between the Tatham brothers to qualify in second. A truly outstanding rider, although Leon did admit he needed to use the brakes a couple of times.

After a lunch and liquid break (or a liquid lunch break for some) the four man races started. The format was simple with the first two riders advancing to the next round. Some incredible racing occurred and a few surprises happened.

Joe Dickson and Matt Dutson were lapping up the course whilst Andy Potter and Pete Tatham nearly took each other out early on, crossing the car park with both wheels and arms interlocked. Chris McCarthy crashed out in dramatic style as eventually did Potter. The final eventually saw Pete and Dave Tatham against Leon Robbins and Renne Miles. MBS and noSno battling it again. One of the friendliest and best rivalries in the mountainboard world. Pete got the hole shot with Dave tucking in behind followed by Leon and then Renne and it stayed that way until the road jump. Pete cleared the road with a good lead only to see over his shoulder Dave spinning out on the very final turn. Leon was on and past him taking second and Renne had just enough extra speed to carry him over the line in third ahead of Dave.

In the Masters Dany Mitchel proved unstoppable and took the win from Mal Seward and an unlucky Dave Stamp. Dae Ambroise was storming but took a bad crash and damaged his knee, which was to plague him for his 3-week freeride trip afterwards.

Prize giving in the evening, set in Blues Bar up one of the numerous mountains, was far from the chilled out event the organisers expected and proved to be just a warm-up for Saturday night. Matt and Renne also put on a long boarding demo (although Renne insisted on using his trick board – nutter) down the main mountain road dodging in and out of traffic. It was scary enough to witness let alone do. The police were not amused and in Italy that's not good!



Saturday

Billed as the main event the first Mountainboard World Downhill Championships did not disappoint. The start point was the Tondi refuge (2327m), a mere one and a half vertical kilometres above Cortina. That high up everything changes – the terrain is far more demanding and even the air has less oxygen.

The run began with a steep and technical section, the roughest and steepest terrain the riders had to tackle on the mountain. As they dropped down the surface became wider and better. Big loose rocks became smaller loose stone and eventually turned into grass-covered piste. From there the course turned into a great, fast right hand corner past Faloria refuge (2123m) and then connected onto a difficult service road that took you to the finish at Vitelli (2020m).

The course was a few metres short of two kilometres, and the descent was over 300 vertical metres, again electronically timed. The best time set last year was 2 minutes 22 seconds by Pete Tatham. This year the aim was to try to get under the two-minute barrier.

For many mountainboarders this would make a great first mountain to descend, but to race down it was a completely different experience. Hard and fast lines took incredible skill to control and to link all the sections at speed.....Well that was the unique challenge in this event.

The rules were again very simple. Every run to be digitally timed and riders could make the descent as many times as they liked up to 4pm.

World Downhill Masters

French board designer, Christian Bach pioneered his own two-wheel design board, the Sicnomen, that proved its worth as he placed third with 3.25.78

With the last run at 4pm Dave Stamp managed 7 runs, more than twice the average rider, not bad for a masters competitor! And not a bad result... his persistence saw him continually improve his time until he secured second place on the podium with 3.01.31 sec. He also came away with Dany Mitchel's prestigious 2004 title, the 'Spank Monkey'.

Reigning Masters World Series Downhill champion Mal Seward proved that he was still top in the mountains and took first place and secured a new world championship title by beating the 3 minute barrier.

Masters Brake Individual Times

1st	Mal Seward	GB
	2.59.60	
2nd	Dave Stamp	I
	3.01.31	
3rd	Christian Bach	F
	3.25.78	

Taking on the challenge of a descent with no brakes French rider Diego Anderson proved himself no stranger to the mountains claiming the downhill title to go along with his recently earned title, World Freestyle Champion.

In second place J Davis was proud to have dropped his first mountain and successfully cross over his longboard skills to help control speed as he descended Faloria.

Masters Without Brake Individual Times

1st	Diego Anderson	F
	4.41.06	
2nd	J Davis	GB
	5.38.91	

World Downhill Open

Pioneering the use of brakes on their downhill boards to increase the average speed and fluidity of descent has been at the heart of noSno R&D over the past few years. The weapon of choice for the mountains seems to be the 10" boards for when the terrain gets rough. This has proven its worth with so many podium positions in mountain downhill events, not least this very mountain. Pete Tatham's aim to break the 2 min barrier pushed this theory to the test.

Over the 2km descent Pete averaged 36.35mph (58.5 kph) and came within just 25 hundredths of a second away from breaking the 2 min goal. In the last section of gravel service track to the finish line Pete took a massive crash in his fastest run of the day with only a few hundred metres to go. The sub 2-minute descent remains the challenge for next year.

Pete Tatham (UK) took a stunning victory despite the crash, narrowly beating the outstanding Chris McCarthy by just 21 hundredths of a second. Swiss Rider Marco Dehler

had a really good strong and aggressive style but Dave Tatham's mountain experience showed through and put a descent gap between them in the battle for third with a run of 2.14.04.

Open Brake Individual Times

1st	Pete Tatham	GB
	2.00.25	
2nd	Chris McCarthy	GB
	2.00.46	
3rd	Dave Tatham	GB
	2.14.04	
4th	Marco Dehler	CH
	2.28.56	

The riders in the masters with no brakes had set the pace. Matt Dutton had travelled out to Italy with riding partner J Davis and was determined to match his time; otherwise it was going to be a long journey home. Matt put it together linking some great slides with some well controlled fast sections and came in third with 4.35.91 happy in the knowledge that the 12hr journey home would be peaceful. Leon Robbins found it hard but put together a clean run and took second place with 4.16.68.

Andy Potter took a little time to get going – his first run that saw him almost descend down the wrong face of the mountain. It was no surprise that he got it together and took first place (by over 1.5mins) as it is in mountain riding that he has built his name. It was also a personal best for Andy knocking over 20 seconds off his time from last year.

ZOMBIES ON THE LOOSE



Open Without Brake Individual Times

1st Andy Potter GB 2.41.93
2nd Leon Robbins USA 4.16.68
3rd Matt Dutson GB 4.35.91

Joe Dickson put in an admirable performance and had the U16 class to himself. He would be the first to admit that he was a little intimidated by the mountain but showed himself capable of competing with the open category.

U16 Individual Times

1st Joe Dickson (U16) GB 4.54.73

Saturday night was prize giving and full party night. The venue was Falaria, half way up the mountain. That far out of the public eye the riders cut loose. The stories have circulated and a myth been born. What actually happened should remain a slight mystery as it simply wouldn't translate into any known language. For those who really want to know there is only one thing to do – go out next year and experience it yourselves.

Sunday

As promised Sunday was a relaxed and fun jib for those who could. For the rest they licked their wounds (or drowned their sorrows) whilst watching a truly entertaining session. Swiss rider Marco Dehler showed a whole new side to the potential of mountain boarding with a sort of flatland park style which almost bordered on brake dance manoeuvres including a superb standing backflip. Chris McCarthy dragged up a bit of energy to lay down some styled three's whilst Jay Davies returned to his old school riding.

Eventually the fun had to come to an end, with most of the riders heading back to their various countries with memories and tales from Italy that should surely guarantee the success of the event next year. The riders certainly hope so. Team noSno, however, were just starting on their freeride tour but that's a whole different article.

Rider quotes:

Leon Robbins –
'Best competition this year'
'this is mountainboarding'
'most beautiful place to mountainboard'
'back next year'

Diego Anderson –

'Crazy competitors, crazy organizers, crazy event. Thanks to everyone who had been involved, it will stay like a great moment of madness in my life...'

Pete Tatham -

'The future is all downhill'
'This event is a must for anyone who wants to experience real mountain riding.'
'Someone will have the 2 minute barrier next year – I just hope it's me!'

Thanks to:

Adventura hosting with Falaria SPA, Cortina Cube & Red Bull, Fat Face, Manhick Engineering and AdrenalinX

www.worlddownhillchampionships.com
www.nosno.com
www.mbs.com
www.sicnomen.com

DEATH TO THOSE WHO FAIL

RIDER PROFILE

NAME : Stu Lugger
AGE : 20 in January
WHERE : Reading
OCCUPATION : Training to be a sparky
LOCAL SPOT : Haven't got one
SEX : Male

SPONSOR : None

YEARS RIDING : 1 1/2

SEASONS COMPETING : 1

FAVORITE SPOT : Cleeve



RIDER PROFILE

NO. 2

Weapon of choice + setup:

Standard Leon Pro with Heelstraps (and a funky pimped paintjob)

Riding Kit(pads/ helmet etc):

Standard Stuff - full face, dianese armour other just usual stuff.

What was the best course on the ATBA series this year and why?:

Haredown was fast or Scotland, Scotland was good fun was good fun.

Who were your main challengers this year:

Bieren Stelzer Martlew, me and Bieren fought through the whole thing, just pushing each other really. I put myself against Paul Butler which is wierd... I just see myself as about the same sort of level as Paul Butler. But me and Bieren pushed each other through together.

Fave 3 foods:

Chicken Pasta and Guinness

Fave drink:

Guinness obviously!

What music, DJ's or bands?:

I will listen to almost anything... Incubus.

Any other hobbies apart from mountain boarding?:

Snowboarding

If you had to give a beginner mountain boarder one piece of advice, what would it be?:

Lean forwards. I'm an instructor! Lean fowards!

Any thank you's?:

Steve and Ant, big thanks for pushing me and bringing my riding up to a higher level.

Any abuse for anyone?:

Not really, not that I am telling you!

STU LUGGER RINSING IT OUT IN THE WOODS & AT BOLESWORTH





George Monbiot

THE ALTERNATIVE media

FROM

Monbiot.com

Undercurrents and Schnews are both British political media, unconstrained by news values of the traditional mass media, they are now ten years old, and still blooming.

When most of the media is controlled by people (the rich and powerful) who have an active interest in ensuring that the misdeeds of the rich and powerful are not exposed, the alternative media become critical to the survival of democracy.

When most of the media is controlled by people (the rich and powerful) who have an active interest in ensuring that the misdeeds of the rich and powerful are not exposed, the alternative media become critical to the survival of democracy. Rational political choices – who to vote for, which policies to support, which to oppose – are impossible if you don't understand the implications, and the very information you need most is the information you are least likely to obtain. Unless, that is, you are lucky enough to have discovered Undercurrents and Schnews. There are plenty of alternative media in Europe, but I've yet to come across any which are as informative and entertaining as these. If ever I forget why I'm an activist, Undercurrents and Schnews are there to remind me. Both of them are ten years old this year.

Undercurrents is a video and DVD newsreel, and an antidote to everything that's wrong with mainstream television news. It treats the rich and powerful as objects of ridicule rather than objects of reverence. Its mission is to hold them to account, to expose the injustices they cause and to encourage people to knock them off their perches. This is where it really excels: inspiring hope in situations which at first sight look hopeless. The latest tape contains a remarkable film about a students' strike at Harvard: the most powerful university on earth. The students locked themselves into the university offices in protest at the pay and conditions Harvard was imposing on its janitors. They stayed there until the university caved in. There's extraordinary footage of the escape from the Woomera detention camp in Australia, and coverage of the successful campaign against an oil company investing in Burma. There's also some brilliant animation and a genuinely funny spoof of Bush and Blair's foreign policy. Fahrenheit 911 and Supersize Me look pretty tame when you've seen this stuff. Whenever I've seen a copy of Undercurrents, I feel my head's going to explode with inspiration and new ideas.

... such as the government's refusal to hold corporate killers to account, the scandalous private finance initiative, the new laws restricting protest ...

Schnews is a weekly newspaper, published in both print and electronic forms. It is funny and wise and well-written. I love its corny headlines, and its ability to convey complex issues with clarity and concision. I receive 300 emails a day, but when Schnews comes out on a Friday, it is always the first one I open. It tackles the issues which should be the stuff of daily conversation, but which the mainstream media generally ignores, such as the government's refusal to hold corporate killers to account, the scandalous private finance initiative, the new laws restricting protest and civil liberties and the persecution of gypsies and travellers. If our mainstream media had the same commitment to exposing injustice as Schnews does, Bush and Blair would have been be out on their arses by now. And it always has news about successful protests, in Britain and the rest of the world. The latest edition contains the best reporting of Ukraine's orange revolution I've read so far. I think, at last, I understand what's happening there.

Both of them are run on a shoestring – Undercurrents for example, can't release another tape unless enough people buy the current one. And yet they have more to say about the real state of the world than any of our lavishly-funded papers and broadcasters.

You can buy the latest Undercurrents, plus the back issues, at www.undercurrents.org/unn
You can subscribe to Schnews at www.schnews.org.uk/index.html

If you want to see what you've missed over the past ten years, it has just published a collection called Schnews at Ten.

... Bush and Blair would
have been be out on
their ar*es by now.

ALL TERRAIN BOARDING ASSOCIATION

The ATBA is the governing body of the sport of All Terrain Boarding also known as mountain boarding and off road boarding. The UK branch of the ATBA has been running since 1997. With the increased popularity of the sport, the ATBA-UK is now a Limited non-profit charitable organisation, ATBA-UK Ltd. This is to make sure no one can make millions out of the association in years to come - the riders must come first!

THE AIMS OF THE ATBA-UK ARE:

The ATBA-UK is a non-profit making organisation to provide the recognised forum to represent and promote the sport in the UK by:

1. Putting riders interests first.
2. Promote safety.
3. Sanctioning events
4. Providing training.
5. Communicating our actions and decisions to members.
6. Sourcing funding for the above.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- ATBA-UK membership card and stickers.
- Discount exclusive insurance for riders, including Personal Injury and Third Party Liability to cover wherever you ride.
- 1/3 off entrance fees to ATBA-UK British Championships.
- Discounts for family memberships.
- Discounts for riding at participating centres across the UK.
- Newsletter throughout the year.
- Specialist advice for members.
- An opportunity to voice and vote for the future of the sport.
- The opportunity to represent and aid the sport in the UK.

This is some info about the ATBA, the UK chapter of the All Terrain Boarding Association. It is a democratically elected council of riders, elected democratically by the members of the ATBA to act as organisers of the most successful UK ATB events.

The benefits of being a member extend not only to getting discounts from the companies which have chosen to lend support to the organisation, but also a members card offers discounts at a majority of the centres available to ride at, in the UK. They also act as a go between to offer cheap and comprehensive insurance specific to extreme sports practitioners from the insurance industry.

The organisation is experienced at acting as a go between for the riders in the UK and the Industry in the UK, whose aims aren't always the same. They are on your side, but they need your support. For the last two years the UK series has been an extremely professionally run series (I have only two years experience of the ATBA-UK's operations). Your money is not paying wages, it is to enable a hard working unpaid team of highly motivated UK riders sort out the best possible summers for you lot. Its not a thankless task, but without your support it will become so. By the riders, and for the riders. Just like us. Look out for an interview with the man responsible the its success in the next amazing issue of Scuz mountainboarding zine.

SCUZ MOUNTAINBOARDING ZINE

Proud members of the ATBA-UK



Membership Application:

To join the ATBA-UK please complete and return this form with payment as detailed below:

(For a full description of member benefits please log onto www.atbauk.org)

Name:
 Address:

 County:
 Post Code:
 Phone Number:
 Email:
 Date of Birth:

Membership Required: (Please tick one only)

Senior Member	£20.00	Name:	DOB:
Senior Member and 1 family member	£25.00	Name:	DOB:
Senior Member and 2 family members	£30.00	Name:	DOB:
Senior Member and 3 family members	£35.00	Name:	DOB:
Senior Member and 4 family members	£40.00	Name:	DOB:
Junior Member (Under 18 @ 1 st Jan)	£15.00		

(Family members do not get the full membership benefits such as newsletter etc)
 (All Prices are for one Year's Membership from end of month processed)

Comments:

By giving information about yourself ("Your Data") you agree that ATBA-UK and its authorised third parties may hold, use and disclose Your Data in servicing its/their relationship with you, including disclosure to third parties. ATBA-UK, our associated companies and third party product providers may use and analyse Your Data, including the nature of your transactions to give you information about our/ their products and services and those of selected third parties which may be of interest to you.

If you do not wish Your Data to be used for these purposes, please tick the following box.


Please send this completed form together with cheque/postal order made payable to "ATBA-UK" to:

ATBA-UK Ltd, PO Box 2495, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN25 3XZ

Please allow up to 28 days for delivery of membership details.

Any questions or enquiries please email membership@atbauk.org or phone 0870 7658240

For ATBA-UK use only:

Referrer: 	Date received:	Member Number:
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If anyone would like information on the fonts or brush sets we used please contact eric@scuz.info

Most brush set were created inhouse!

All fonts and other brush sets are freeware!

THE TEAM :



ouch!



INJURIES OF THE ISM

"It's always funny until somebody gets hurt. Then it's just hilarious."

Welcome to the carnage section.

Its good this issue eh?

Like a Carnage carnival! Oh that has such a lovely ring to it, like Paul Turner's eye! As you can see from his picture, Paul hasn't been taking very good care of himself recently. What happened to the arm was riding in Germany, but what happened to the eye, more luckily for our fanzine than Paul's lovely bearded Team North face; a water balloon, fired from one of those new crazy three man catapults came flying into the mosh pit during the evenings entertainment at the final round of the series and made straight for Paul's unsuspecting eye. Paul immediately fell to the floor unconscious with blood leaking from what quickly became a golf ball like face-appendage, scaring the crap out of everyone nearby. As you can see from the photo though, Paul is Northern, which equates to hard and hence there's nowt the matter with him now.

As for the other two Lads, obviously jealous of the erotic red sheath covering our northern friends arm, they have attempted to follow suit and who can blame them? Nearly went in for it myself. I actually think it was one of our northern Leeds riders who started the trend at early 2005 (also called Paul, would you credit it?), and it looks to be catching on nicely. Well done everyone.

Think lucky like the National Lottery villains always tell you to, because next time, it could be you!





scuz

“Snatching defeat from the jaws of victory.”